UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 9)
10 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME II. IMPLEMENTATION, CODIFICATION AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Programme 9. International law

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* The present document contains programme 9 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 9 - INTERNATIONAL LAW

A. Programme

1. General orientation

9.1 The legislative authority for programme 9, International law, is General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, which created the Office of Legal Affairs for the purpose of implementing the programme. The responsibilities of the Office are described in the Manual on the Organization of the Secretariat (ST/SGB/Organization of 17 October 1989)

9.2 As stated in Article 1 of the Charter, one of the purposes of the United Nations is "to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace". In the light of recent international developments, the Organization has played an increasing role in fulfilling that purpose, thereby furthering a wider application of international law in world affairs.

9.3 The Charter of the United Nations is a multilateral treaty; the United Nations itself is an intergovernmental organization, which is therefore governed by international law. The interpretation and application by the Organization of its constituent instruments and decisions, its relations with Member States and its conduct and activities must all be in compliance with international law.

9.4 A major aim of the present programme is thus to provide legal advice and services in operational matters to United Nations organs, bodies and Secretariat units. The other general aims of the programme relate to the execution of tasks in the area of international law specifically entrusted to the Organization by the Charter in Articles 13 and 102 or pursuant to decisions of United Nations organs, including the Secretary-General's duties with respect to international agreements, the progressive development and codification of international law and the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.

2. Overall strategy

9.5 In carrying out their respective activities, the United Nations organs and bodies face different legal problems ranging from questions of legal competence to modalities, from the use of terms to the formulation of texts and from questions of entitlement to rules of procedure (e.g. elections, conduct of meetings, making proposals, decision-making, etc.). Similarly, the Secretariat units in carrying out their multidimensional activities also regularly encounter various legal questions involving international public or private law, national legislations, internal administrative and institutional rules and regulations, as well as rules of procedure of United Nations bodies. While many of the questions are linked closely to the political, peace-keeping, humanitarian, economic or social activities of the United Nations, others relate to the privileges and immunities of the Organization or its members.

9.6 There is therefore a need not only to provide legal advice and services to United Nations organs, bodies and Secretariat units but also to ensure uniformity

and consistency in such advice and services. They must be provided to units at Headquarters and in the regional offices, and to those in the field of operation (e.g. the peace-keeping forces). Furthermore, since 1979, the Office of Legal Affairs has been responsible for all legal services required by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Legal Counsel also represents the Secretary-General before the International Court of Justice and before the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations. In addition, the Office of Legal Affairs protects the interests, privileges and immunities of the Organization by representing it, as it deems appropriate, in any forums in which such questions have been raised.

9.7 General legal services are similarly provided to United Nations organs and Secretariat units with respect to such matters as contractual and other legal relations with third parties, the rights and obligations of the staff (as a whole or individually) and questions of liability, including the handling of claims.

9.8 Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations entrusts the General Assembly with the specific task of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. That task is being carried out under the aegis of the International Law Commission, the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and the ad hoc committees of the Sixth Committee, which the Assembly establishes from time to time in order to formulate and systematize rules of international law in areas not covered by the International Law Commission. In that connection, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, declared the period 1989-1999 the United Nations Decade for International Law.

9.9 Parallel to the work in the field of public international law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was created by the General Assembly as the core legal body in the United Nations system for the purpose of harmonizing and unifying international trade law.

9.10 Those legislative organs all require substantive services ranging from research, preparation of reports and studies, to the publication of jurisprudential materials in the relevant fields. Conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations for the adoption of legal instruments promulgated by those law-creating bodies also need preparation and servicing.

9.11 In relation to the function of promoting the progressive development and codification of international law, the General Assembly has adopted various measures for the purpose of furthering wider knowledge and appreciation of international law. Provisions are thus made in the programme for carrying out such activities as seminars, training courses, fellowships, advisory services of experts, publications of legal materials and translation of major legal works. All these are intended to assist in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

9.12 Treaties between States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities are an important instrument for the conduct of activities and legal relations, and have become the major source of international law. Pursuant to the Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Secretary-General is required to register and publish every treaty and international agreement entered into by any Member of the Organization. The programme accordingly covers the registration and publication functions entrusted to the Secretary-General in Article 102 of the Charter. In that respect, the Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for the

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publication of the United Nations Treaty Series and its Cumulative Index. In addition, the Secretary-General acts as depositary for several hundred multilateral treaties and the programme covers those functions as well.

9.13 In order to provide appropriate and timely legal advice and services, the Office of Legal Affairs is required to maintain contact and full co-operation with all Secretariat units whose activities may involve problems of international or institutional law. System-wide co-operation and co-ordination are also maintained to ensure consistency and uniformity in the interpretation and application of the law and practice. Meetings of the legal advisers from various United Nations organizations and agencies are held periodically to exchange views on matters of common interest.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

9.14 In the light of the aforementioned orientation and overall strategy, Programme 9 consists therefore of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Overall direction, management and co-ordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole

Subprogramme 2. Custody, registration and publication of treaties

Subprogramme 3. Progressive development and codification of international law

Subprogramme 4. General legal services to United Nations organs and programmes

Subprogramme 5. Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade

9.15 As will be seen, each subprogramme has its own legislative authority originating from varied sources. Each must therefore be implemented in accordance with its mandates. Given that premise and taking into account the multiple tasks entrusted to the programme, priority will be given to overall direction, management and co-ordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole (subprogramme 1).

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. OVERALL DIRECTION, MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF LEGAL ADVICE AND SERVICES TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS A WHOLE

(a) Objectives

9.16 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Articles 97 and 98 of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions 13 (I), 22 A (I), resolutions 351 A (IV) as amended by 782 B (VIII) and 957 (X), resolutions 992 (X), 1136 (XII), 1381 (XIV), 1670 (XVI), 1756 (XVII), 1993 (XVIII), 2114 (XX), 2285 (XXII), 2819 (XXVI), 34/147, 35/164, 35/168, 35/212, 36/115, 36/232 and 43/51.

9.17 A broad range of legal questions are dealt with under the subprogramme, the central objective of which is to ensure that in upholding, strengthening and

unifying the rule of law in the affairs of the Organization, overall direction, management and co-ordination is maintained. The aim of the subprogramme is thus to create consistency and uniformity in the provision of legal advice in all areas of the Organization's activities on problems involving international and institutional law.

9.18 Legal advice is provided on behalf of the Secretary-General in relation to a broad range of his political and administrative functions. Legal advice and assistance are also provided as necessary in connection with political, peace-keeping, humanitarian, economic and social activities undertaken by the Organization. In the light of the political developments occurring in all regions of the world, an expanded role in relation to the good offices functions of the Secretary-General and to peace-keeping and peace-making activities of the United Nations can be expected under the subprogramme during the period 1992-1997.

9.19 The effective functioning of the organs of the Organization often requires the provision of legal advice regarding the constitutive instruments and rules and procedures of United Nations bodies that serve as the legal framework for the rule of law within the United Nations and its organs. Difficulties of application and interpretation also frequently arise with regard to the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization, its officials, experts and representatives of Member States and in its relations with host countries. Activities with a view to ensuring the proper implementation, development and protection of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations both in relation to the Organization itself and to officials, experts and representatives of Member States will be carried out.

9.20 Legal problems also arise in response to allegations by staff members regarding the non-observance of their contract of employment or terms of appointment. An objective under the subprogramme is to continue to provide legal, administrative and secretariat services to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements, the central organs in the administration of justice within the United Nations.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

9.21 The activities undertaken towards the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme are carried out by the Office of the Legal Counsel. They are of a continuing nature. However, if, as is foreseen during the period 1992-1993, the activities of the Organization, particularly in the areas of peace-keeping, peace-making and good offices functions of the Secretary-General, increase quantitatively and in complexity, the Office of the Legal Counsel will be called upon to provide legal advice and assistance in connection with possible innovative forms and procedures of United Nations operational activities, to participate in the negotiations and on the drafting of legal texts ranging from status of force agreements to election laws, and to represent the Secretary-General in judicial and arbitral proceedings. Increased demands for legal advice regarding all aspects of international law, in particular, the laws of natural resources and environment, are anticipated during the period 1992-1997.

9.22 In connection with the functioning of United Nations organs, the Office of the Legal Counsel will continue to provide written and oral legal opinions and advice to intergovernmental bodies and to the Secretariat. As part of its ongoing activities, the work programme under the present subprogramme will include

assistance in the proceedings of United Nations organs by rendering legal advice in the implementation of decisions and application of the rules of procedure. In respect of the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization, its officials, experts and the representatives of Member States, and its relations with host countries, the Office of the Legal Counsel will continue to negotiate agreements, solve problems arising from the interpretation of agreements through negotiation, provide legal and secretariat services to the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, appear as agent or counsel of the Secretary-General before the International Court of Justice and where necessary defend the interests of the Organization in judicial or arbitral proceedings. Legal and secretariat services will also continue to be provided to the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly.

9.23 Legal advice and service will be rendered to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements through the preparation of necessary documentation, reports and servicing of meetings, during the plan period. The evolving nature of the Organization is expected to increase the demands on those central organs entrusted with the administration of justice within the Organization.

9.24 The activities undertaken by the Office of the Legal Counsel in connection with the subprogramme will also include the update of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs. Additional draft studies on Articles of the Charter will be prepared for inclusion in future supplements to the Repertory.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. CUSTODY, REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES

(a) Objectives

9.25 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Article 102 of the Charter and regulations to give effect thereto adopted by the General Assembly in resolutions 23 (I), 97 (I), as amended by resolutions 364 B (IV), 482 (V) and 33/141. In the case of multilateral treaties and international agreements that had been included in the League of Nations treaty series, the legislative authority derives from General Assembly resolution 24 (I).

9.26 One objective of the subprogramme is to assist the international community in treaty matters by the performance of depositary functions in respect of international agreements. Another is to facilitate a prompt and exact knowledge of international agreements registered with the Secretariat, as well as legal opinions on the law of treaties.

9.27 The subprogramme aims at keeping States, intergovernmental organizations and so on informed of the identity of the participants of approximately 350 treaties and multilateral agreements deposited with the Secretary-General and of other relevant formalities, such as the date of entry into force. The publicity thus given to international agreements removes causes for distrust and conflicts and is thereby an important factor in the maintainance of peaceful international relations. Moreover, it contributes to the formation of a clear and indisputable system of international law.

9.28 Under the terms of Article 102 of the Charter, "every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the present Charter comes into force shall as soon as possible be registered with the

Secretariat and published by it". Owing, inter alia, to recruitment difficulties, it has not been possible to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series within the 10-year period (1 January 1980 to 31 December 1989) originally foreseen. The remaining backlog will, however, be eliminated during the present plan period, provided there is no unforeseen increase in the normal level of incoming material.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

9.29 During the period 1992-1997, the activities carried out under the subprogramme will continue to be implemented by the Treaty Section. The steady processing of depositary formalities and provision of information to States, intergovernmental organizations and others concerning the status of international agreements, inter alia, by the circulation of depositary notifications and by the yearly issuance of the publication Multilateral Treaties deposited with the Secretary-General will be continued. In respect of the Statement of Treaties, it is intended to publish such statements within one month after the registration period and to publish the United Nations Treaty Series within one year from the date of registration, and to publish as soon as possible thereafter the Cumulative Index to the United Nations Treaty Series.

9.30 There exists, however, a need to improve the procedures and modernize the computer systems through which treaty information is provided to Member States and the international community. Possible rationalization and streamlining of the various internal processes that contribute to the execution of the programme will be studied. In that respect the possibility of introducing computerization and electronic linkage to Secretariat and outside users, such as Governments, specialized agencies, other international organizations and so on, will be carefully reviewed. In addition, the information contained in the approximately 1,300 volumes of the United Nations Treaty Series published thus far is now too voluminous to be indexed by the traditional methods. It is intended to computerize the indexes fully, as well as to utilize image compact disc technology for the dissemination of the text of the treaties.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(a) Objectives

9.31 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter, General Assembly resolution 174 (II), and the successive General Assembly resolutions convening, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, subsidiary ad hoc or special committees or conferences of plenipotentiaries, as well as General Assembly resolutions 487 (V), 602 (VI), 686 (VII), 1291 (XIII), 1451 (XIV), 1506 (XV), 1814 (XVII), 1816 (XVII), 1968 (XVIII), 2099 (XX) and 3006 (XXVII).

9.32 The basic aim of the subprogramme is to implement the policies governing the progressive development and codification of international law and other United Nations activities in the legal field through the initiation of studies on the basis of recommendations by the General Assembly.

9.33 There are various reasons why States are demonstrating a growing interest in the strengthening and development of international law, but the most fundamental one is the international community's awareness of the basic and immediate link

between peace and security and the effective operation of a system of legal norms governing the conduct of States, including, first and foremost, the prohibition of the use of force and the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Another factor that is prompting States to attach more importance to the development of international law is their increasing sense of interdependence in the face of such phenomena as international terrorism, drug-trafficking and the degradation of the environment. A third factor is the intensification of economic co-operation and the progress of science and technology, which bring countries closer and closer and create demands for the legal regulation of an ever-widening circle of human activities. The trends outlined above may be expected to shape the activities of the United Nations during the 1990s in the field of the progressive development and codification of international law.

9.34 Uncertainty about the content of existing rules in many areas of international law, the non-written character of many of those rules and the necessity of adjusting them in the light of the current needs of the international community require, in general, that the elaboration and adoption by States of an instrument developing progressively and codifying a particular topic of international law be preceded by a detailed study of the subject concerned. A basic objective under the subprogramme is accordingly the preparation of reports and drafts for consideration by the General Assembly, through the International Law Commission and special or ad hoc subsidiary bodies, on the subject of international legal topics or questions leading eventually to the elaboration and adoption of conventions or protocols and other international instruments (declarations, articles, etc.) at conferences of plenipotentiaries or within the Assembly itself.

9.35 By their very nature, the tasks undertaken under the subprogramme involve the preparation of background documents. Those documents must present, analyse and evaluate the practice of States and international organizations, national legislations, international and national judicial decisions and treaty provisions, together with the teachings of learned institutions or individual publicists, as the essential elements of information on the basis of which the law on a given topic may be codified and developed. Another objective of the subprogramme is accordingly to provide legal bodies with the necessary research and background documentation for the performance of their respective codification or other legal tasks at the various levels and stages of the consideration of a topic or question.

9.36 Since the process of codification of international law involves, among other things, the formulation in written form of non-written rules of international law, namely, customary rules, disseminating the knowledge of such rules is a directly related requirement. The process of codification also demands a wider knowledge of the activities of the United Nations relating to that process by both Member States and the public in order to intensify interest and support and facilitate the implementation of the results. The subprogramme therefore also has as an objective to make international law and United Nations legal activities more accessible, thus providing a solid basis for the work of the International Law Commission and other United Nations legal organs, as well as the international community in general.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

9.37 The Codification Division is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. During the plan period it will continue to serve as (a) the substantive secretariat of the Sixth Committee, (b) the substantive secretariat of the International Law Commission, and (c) the secretariat of codification

conferences and of special committees reporting to the General Assembly. Its activities will also include providing the above-mentioned legal bodies with the necessary research and background documentation for the performance of their respective codification or other legal tasks at the various levels and stages of the consideration of a topic or question. The various recurrent publications issued under the responsibility of the Division - the Yearbook of the International Law Commission, the Juridical Yearbook, the Legislative Series and the Reports of International Arbitral Awards - as well as monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, will continue.

9.38 It is anticipated that the need to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification, as envisaged in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter, will be felt increasingly during the period of the medium-term plan, as a result of the growing recognition of the primacy of the rule of law in international relations and because of the ever greater importance that States attach to the process of the continuing adaptation of international law to the requirements of international life. Those trends are attested to by the recent proclamation of the period 1990-1999 as the United Nations Decade of International Law (General Assembly resolution 44/23).

9.39 More specifically, it is expected that before the end of the plan period, a draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, draft articles on the jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, and draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses will be placed before the General Assembly and that those drafts will serve as a basis for the elaboration of instruments by the Sixth Committee or by codification conferences. Other questions that the Assembly will continue to examine include, inter alia, international terrorism; the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; the peaceful settlement of disputes between States; and the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. It is also foreseen that the consideration of an item concerning the establishment of an international criminal court with jurisdiction over transnational criminal activities related, inter alia, to trafficking in narcotic drugs will extend beyond 1992.

9.40 It may furthermore be expected that the International Law Commission will complete the first reading of drafts under elaboration on State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law and on relations between States and international organizations.

9.41 The work currently being carried out in the framework of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly on specific aspects of the maintenance of international peace and security and on the peaceful settlement of disputes is expected to continue. Other special committees may be established by the Assembly for the fulfilment of specific tasks.

9.42 The Codification Division, which provides the substantive secretariat of the Sixth Committee, the International Law Commission and special committees reporting to the Sixth Committee, will assist those bodies in the study of the topics listed above by compiling background documentation, preparing reports and drafting

commentaries. Two major research projects, the preparation of a handbook on peaceful settlement of disputes and the updating of a survey of international law issued initially in 1971 will also be finalized during the period of the medium-term plan.

9.43 The Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law will continue to be implemented as decided by the General Assembly. The Programme covers various activities, including such direct assistance as seminars, regional training and refresher courses, fellowships, advisory services of experts and the provision of United Nations legal publications. No major changes are anticipated in the programme during the period 1992-1997.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES TO UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

9.44 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 13 (I), and resolutions 351 A (IV), 782 B (VIII) and 957 (X), which established the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and appeals procedures, and resolutions 1472 (XIV) and 1721 (XVI) which established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to study, inter alia, the legal problems that might arise from the exploration and use of outer space.

9.45 In the day-to-day administration of the Organization, legal services are required for the resolution of legal uncertainties and other legal difficulties that arise with regard to the nature, scope, application and interpretation of certain Articles of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the mandates of programmes and activities in which United Nations organs and bodies are engaged, compliance with the international and national legal régime in which the United Nations operates and the drafting of international agreements. The provision of legal opinions and advice to United Nations organs and bodies and their subsidiaries, as well as to units of the Secretariat, with regard to such matters is also an objective of the subprogramme.

9.46 Legal problems need to be addressed in the context of the development through the United Nations of a body of treaties and declarations of principle on the peaceful uses of outer space. An objective of the subprogramme is the provision of substantive and secretariat support to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its preparation of legal instruments and in its examination of legal questions within its mandate.

9.47 In the implementation of its mandates and programmes the United Nations enters into a variety of agreements with Governments or intergovernmental bodies, as well as private parties. One of the objectives of the subprogramme is therefore to provide legal advice, assistance and services to the Secretariat (at Headquarters, the regional commissions, other United Nations offices away from Headquarters and peace-keeping missions) and to other United Nations organizations (basically UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), in respect of questions relating to their administration, the drafting of agreements and various types of contracts (e.g. for leases, insurance, publications, and construction) and with regard to other legal relations (e.g. procurement, project execution, copyright and

taxation). An important element of the objective is to minimize financial loss and legal claims against the organizations that could arise from such agreements, contracts and other legal relations.

9.48 The internal constitutive instruments, regulations, rules and practices of the Organization often require extension, interpretation and amendment. Additionally, representation of the Secretary-General before the United Nations Administrative Tribunal is required in disputes being adjudicated by the Tribunal, and to assist the latter in developing the Organization's administrative law. Another objective of the subprogramme is therefore the provision of the legal services to the various elements of the Secretariat at Headquarters, and other United Nations offices and peace-keeping missions to ensure the development and proper application of the internal regulations, rules and practices of the Organization relating, for example, to financial, staff and pension matters.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

9.49 The General Legal Division, which is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme, will continue to provide legal services in the form of legal research and written or oral legal advice; to conduct negotiations, participate in meetings (including meetings of Secretariat bodies such as the Committee on Contracts, the Tort Claims Board, the Staff Management Co-ordination Committee, the Property Survey Board, the Claims Board, etc.); and to represent the Organization before judicial and arbitral bodies and prepare legal documents and instruments of various kinds. Legal services provided will also include representation of the Secretary-General in proceedings before the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements.

9.50 The activities under the subprogramme will include the preparation of meetings documentation, reports and research papers and substantive servicing of all meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the period and the preparation of reports for the Committee when the latter so requests.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. PROGRESSIVE HARMONIZATION AND UNIFICATION OF THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(a) Objectives

9.51 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 2205 (XXI), which established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and 34/142, which reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The General Assembly reviews the work of the Commission annually and directs it in its resolutions, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/166 and 44/33.

9.52 Divergencies in domestic trade laws have created impediments to international trade and business transactions and the situation has become more serious with the anticipated expansion of international trade and commerce. There is therefore an urgent need to prepare new legal instruments suitable for the conduct of international trade and capable of reducing barriers to trade. Those instruments must also reflect and accommodate rapid developments in technologies and practices used in trade. Furthermore it is increasingly important to ensure that contract

forms, general conditions, trade terms, provisions and practices offer equal benefit and protection to the parties to trade transactions and continue to meet their needs in a changing environment. An objective of the subprogramme is thus to assist the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in the formulation of new international conventions, model and uniform laws and other legal texts, and in the codification of trade terms, provisions, customs and practices.

9.53 Although it is anticipated that by the beginning of the plan period, many of the legal texts formulated by the Commission will be in force either as international conventions or as national legislation in some Member States, it is necessary to promote actively the usefulness of those texts to Governments and interested parties so as to ensure their widest possible acceptance and application. Another objective of the subprogramme is to promote the widespread adoption and use of international conventions and uniform laws prepared by the Commission in the field of the law of international trade. The activities of the subprogramme will also include promotion of uniform interpretation and application of those texts, particularly through courts and arbitral tribunals.

9.54 The existence of numerous organizations that prepare texts on various aspects of international trade law creates a need for the co-ordination of those activities. It is anticipated that, owing to developments in the structure of the international economy, an increasing number of legal texts in the area of international trade law will emerge from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for use in specific regions or in particular sectors of trade. Another objective of the subprogramme is to monitor and co-ordinate the work of other organizations in the field of international trade law, so that the resulting body of international trade law is internationally consistent.

9.55 The effective harmonization of international trade law requires the training of personnel, especially from developing countries. Training and assistance in the field of international trade law will be carried out in order to disseminate the laws governing international commercial and trade transactions, account being taken of the interests of all countries.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

9.56 The International Trade Law Branch, which is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme, will follow the developments in international trade law in order to advise the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on specific subjects that appear to call for modernization, harmonization or unification. The needs of States and of the international trading community with respect to the law of international trade will be ascertained in relation to the subjects chosen. When new subjects are chosen by the Commission, research will be conducted, documentation will be prepared for the meetings of the Commission or of the working groups to which the subjects have been assigned; draft legal texts will be prepared for the consideration of the Commission or of the working group concerned; and substantive servicing of the meetings of those bodies will be provided.

9.57 In order to promote an awareness and the ultimate adoption by individual Member States of the texts prepared by the Commission, the Secretariat will distribute copies of those texts as well as explanatory materials, plan regional seminars and contact officials and others interested in international trade law in

order to explain the significance of the texts and the benefits to be gained by their adoption.

9.58 The International Trade Law Branch will continue to be active in co-ordinating the work of organizations in the field of international trade law. This will entail the organization of or participation in regional seminars and joint sponsorship of regional seminars when possible in conjunction with other organizations. The Branch will also invite other organizations to attend the meetings of the Commission and prepare reports to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on their work.

9.59 Training and assistance will be carried out through the planning of seminars for participants from developing countries, the hosting of interns and the provision of technical assistance to countries interested in the adoption of texts prepared by the Commission. Such activities will be financed from voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law symposia trust fund.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 10)
4 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME II. CODIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Programme 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

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PROGRAMME 10. LAW OF THE SEA AND OCEAN AFFAIRS

A. Programme

1. General orientation

10.1 By its resolution 38/227 of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly adopted a major programme on marine affairs, which included, within a single chapter, activities on the law of the sea and ocean affairs, consistent with the comprehensive nature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The most recent legislative authority for activities relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs derives from General Assembly resolution 44/26 of 20 December 1989, which was preceded by a series of annual resolutions of the Assembly on the law of the sea, starting with resolution 37/66 of 3 December 1982, which followed the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, and the related resolutions; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/84, which was preceded by biennial resolutions of the Council on the economic and technical aspects of marine affairs, particularly resolution 1970 (LIX).

10.2 Until now, the activities under the programme have been directed primarily at the provision of information, advice and assistance to States in a variety of ways, in order to facilitate a better understanding by States of the Convention, assisting them in ratifying or acceding to it and promoting its wider acceptance, and rational implementation, as well as ensuring that the application of its provisions by States is uniform and consistent with the Convention.

10.3 In that context, the programme has facilitated the establishment by States of national legislative frameworks that would secure for them the extended maritime areas of sovereignty and national jurisdiction under the new legal régime and assist them in exercising their rights and fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, so that they may harness the benefits of it.

10.4 The programme has also provided methodological approaches to and formulated guidelines for integrated ocean management, marine policy-making and programme development, and has assessed the modalities of their application in specific instances, in particular at the regional and national levels. Technical studies and training courses covering general issues and broad implications pertaining to sea-use planning, development of the marine areas under national jurisdiction, marine scientific research and the assessment of offshore non-fuel mineral resources were also implemented at the regional level. In addition, services have been provided to intergovernmental entities in preparing for the entry into force of the Convention and for the commencement of the functioning of the two international organizations established by the Convention, namely, the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

10.5 The General Assembly has annually reviewed the implementation of the mandates, and reiterated and supplemented them, based on annual reports of the Secretary-General to the Assembly, presented at its request. In view of the need to reflect the essential unity of the Convention in organizational terms and to provide an integrated approach by the Organization to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, the Secretary-General has consolidated the Secretariat responsibilities in maritime matters in the execution of the existing major programme on marine affairs.

10.6 The General Assembly has directed attention to the increased needs of States for assistance in the implementation of the Convention if they are to reap the fullest possible benefits to be derived from the new legal régime for the oceans. It has addressed the requirements of States to fulfil their responsibilities in view of the prospective entry into force of the Convention. Member States, in particular the developing countries, are as yet unable to take effective measures to exercise their rights and comply with obligations for the full attainment of the benefits assured under the Convention and of the comprehensive legal régime established by it, in view of the lack of resources and of the necessary legal, management, scientific and technical capabilities. There is an urgent need to intensify technological, organizational and managerial assistance to the developing countries, in particular, in their efforts to reap such benefits; there is also a need to enhance and supplement the efforts of States to enable them to acquire the requisite capabilities. The programme is now poised to advance the work of the Organization in responding to the needs of Member States in dealing with the legal, political, economic, scientific, technical and environmental aspects of the law of the sea and marine affairs.

10.7 The thrust of the programme during the period 1992-1997 will be to continue to advise and assist States in their acceptance of the Convention; in applying it uniformly and consistently; in implementing the Convention rationally; in focusing national ocean policy and management appropriately; and in developing their marine capabilities for the purpose of the fuller attainment of their benefits under the Convention. The programme will also respond to the need for support of marine-related activities of organizations within the United Nations system and will co-operate with them in order to ensure that the specialized sectoral activities system-wide are consistent with the Convention régime and to promote a concerted approach by the United Nations and its organizations, agencies and bodies for the full achievement of benefits by States under the Convention. The programme will, in addition, include support and services to the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in their initial phase of operation, which is expected to begin in the course of the medium-term plan period, and implement the additional functions of the Secretary-General upon the entry into force of the Convention, including servicing the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

2. Overall strategy

10.8 The programme is implemented by the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at Headquarters. The Office is headed by an Under-Secretary-General, who is also the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

10.9 The Office also maintains a temporary duty station at Kingston in order to facilitate the servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

10.10 In order to achieve the objectives of the programme, and given the varied nature of the services called for in meeting the needs of Member States, a variety of means of action will be used.

10.11 Facilitating the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will entail the collection, collation and review

of a wide range of legal and informational materials and their analysis in order to provide: (a) a series of studies offering a legal analysis of the materials used in or resulting from the 14-year negotiating process that led to the adoption of the Convention; (b) a series of studies covering the legal and political aspects of State practice relevant to the Convention; (c) charts and geographical co-ordinates demarcating maritime zones of national jurisdiction and sovereignty following the recording of such information according to established mechanisms; and (d) advisory services on a subregional or national basis to assist States in aligning their national legislation incorporating extended areas of maritime jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the new legal régime. The continued development of the law of the sea information system and the specialized law of the sea library and reference collection will also contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme.

10.12 The needs of Member States in relation to integrated ocean management as a component of marine policy development in the context of the comprehensive legal régime for the oceans will be addressed through continued review of the national management and policy implications of meeting legal requirements under the Convention. Guidelines will be issued in order to give effect to those requirements. Special consideration will be given to the needs arising in the context of building national and regional marine institutions, including science and technology infrastructures, and in securing environmentally sound marine development. Regional and national needs will be assessed and analysed in the context of the broader legal, political and economic aspects of the law of the sea. Additionally, research and studies will be carried out, co-operative regional or national efforts will be supported and assistance in the form of training, advisory services and technical support will be provided. Where funding from external agencies exists and technical assistance or backstopping is requested, the services provided will be contingent upon the co-ordination of such funding with the available programme budget resources.

10.13 With respect to the international sea-bed area and the peaceful settlement of law of the sea disputes, substantive servicing of intergovernmental forums for negotiations during the first part of the plan period followed by co-operation and assistance to the two newly functioning international organizations will be the course of action of the Secretariat.

10.14 The additional responsibilities of the Secretary-General upon the entry into force of the Convention will be discharged through initial preparation for and substantive and technical servicing of the new intergovernmental Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and of other intergovernmental plenipotentiary meetings and bodies, by the preparation of reports on general issues related to the Convention and by the provision of information and other services.

10.15 Co-operation and co-ordination in marine affairs with the United Nations system will be achieved through existing mechanisms and by ad hoc consultative arrangements in response to special needs.

10.16 In relation to the programme, the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat will provide legal advice and assistance on general legal aspects of the work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; the Department of Technical Co-operation will assist in the fields of surveying, mapping, cartography and mineral resource development; the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD) will prepare studies on special economic problems and commodity markets; the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will prepare studies on the protection of the marine environment, both at the global and regional levels; the Department of Public Information will provide press information materials for intergovernmental meeting services under the programme; and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has related sectoral activities at the global and regional levels, particularly in technical co-operation activities and the industrial aspects of marine technologies. Regional commissions will continue to perform activities in marine matters.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

10.17 Based on the above general orientation and strategy, five subprogrammes are proposed under the programme:

Subprogramme 1: Promoting uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and providing advice and information to States

Subprogramme 2: Assisting marine policy development and integrated ocean management by States in the context of the comprehensive ocean régime

Subprogramme 3: Support to organizations within the United Nations system and harmonization of marine affairs in the context of the Convention

Subprogramme 4: Servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and support to the future Authority and Tribunal

Subprogramme 5: Servicing the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf established by the Convention and other intergovernmental bodies, and execution of additional responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention

10.18 Priority will be given to activities under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 4.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. PROMOTING UNIFORM AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND PROVIDING ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO STATES

(a) Objectives

10.19 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 40/63 and subsequent annual resolutions on the law of the sea. That mandate has been reaffirmed recently by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/26, in particular in paragraphs 9-11 and 20.

10.20 The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea did not establish official travaux préparatoires. The result is that most Governments do not have at their disposal all the relevant facts and information that existed prior to the adoption of the Convention, nor are they always in a position to trace the sequence of negotiations held before agreement was attained. The lack of such information can be an impediment to the full understanding and correct interpretation of the Convention's provisions and, consequently, the uniform and consistent application of the Convention by States.

10.21 Another problem most often faced by States, in particular developing States, is to analyse the implications for them of the comprehensive and multidimensional Convention and developments relating thereto, in the context of their legal, political and economic systems and their geographic characteristics. They also have to keep abreast of activities of other States that have implications for them in their acceptance of the Convention and the manner of its application in order to ensure consistent application of the Convention, orderly utilization of ocean space and secure conditions for the exploitation of resources. This requires review of existing or newly enacted national legislation pertaining to the exercise by States of their rights and the assumption of their duties in extended areas of sovereignty or of national jurisdiction; treaties and agreements related to the provisions of the Convention; and decisions and recommendations of national and international courts or arbitral tribunals in the settlement of disputes.

10.22 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist States in better understanding the Convention and its antecedents, and to foster uniformity of interpretation and consistency in the application of the Convention by States. More specifically, the subprogramme aims at providing analyses of important aspects of the Convention in the context of relevant provisions, the preparatory work and the documentation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. In addition, the subprogramme aims at facilitating widespread acceptance and rational implementation of the new legal régime for the ocean through advisory services and the dissemination of information on relevant national, regional and international developments in ocean affairs.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

10.23 By the end of 1991, the cataloguing and indexing of the official documentation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea will have been completed. The specialized law of the sea library and reference collection will have been further developed and updated, and a law of the sea information system will have been set up. Arrangements will have been made for the the interaction of the latter with other information systems.

10.24 During the period 1992-1997, the series of legislative histories and studies analysing the preparatory work and the records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, its antecedents and other related materials will be continued. They will cover such areas of broad interest to Governments as territorial sea, contiguous zone, straits used for international navigation, high seas, management and conservation of living resources, the régime of archipelagos, protection and preservation of marine environment (some aspects), marine scientific research (some aspects), marine technology and settlement of disputes.

10.25 Evolving State practice constituting the legislative acts and regulatory activities of States that have ratified the Convention and of those which have

extended zones of national jurisdiction will continue to be analysed and presented in the form of studies of State practice as a follow-up to the ongoing publications in the series.

10.26 Monitoring of information through publications, periodicals, reports, government circulars and so on, collection, collation and analysis of national marine-related legislation, and gathering of data and materials will be carried out on a continuing basis. It will also serve to keep other offices and departments of the Organization concerned with ocean-related activities and those connected with peace and security in relation to the uses of the seas up to date with information on current developments.

10.27 The specialized law of the sea library and reference collection will be strengthened by keeping abreast of the most recent interpretative works in law and ocean affairs, scholarly works and scientific and technical publications. The publication of the series of select bibliographies on the law of the sea and ocean affairs will be continued. The archiving of the informal preparatory documents and those issued during and as a follow-up to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the documents of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will be completed, in a manner amenable to easy and prompt access. The publication of the annual compilation of law and policy documentation in ocean affairs will continue.

10.28 Recording of large-scale maps and charts and of lists of geographic co-ordinates establishing baselines and limits of maritime zones will be continued using established methodologies and guidelines for the receipt and publication of such information.

10.29 The annual reports on the law of the sea, presented to the General Assembly since 1983, will continue to be made available to the Assembly every year during the plan period, incorporating a broad base of information, including that on the political, legal, economic, scientific, technical and environmental aspects of marine affairs. General, topical and issue-oriented reports will also be prepared for the Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies upon request. In addition, the Law of the Sea Bulletin series also established in 1983, will continue to provide timely information at regular intervals.

10.30 Advisory services, guidelines, briefing materials and special studies and information reviewing national laws, on the formulation of new and supplementary national legislation and regulations implementing the provisions of the Convention, and on developments relating to the new ocean régime will be provided at their request to Governments, national, subregional, regional and global organizations, agencies and institutions, including educational institutions and technical assistance experts, and to training courses, workshops, seminars, symposia, and expert group meetings convened by Governments and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

10.31 With regard to certain provisions of the Convention involving scientific and technical complexities, seminars or expert group meetings will be convened with the objective of securing the necessary technical inputs for studies and reports intended to facilitate effective application of such provisions by States. Such studies would provide guidelines in the technical application of the legal rules covering various issues, namely, methodologies for demarcating limits of national

maritime zones (territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, continental shelf), access to and collection and utilization of scientific and technological data, and standards and criteria applicable to resource exploitation and conservation.

10.32 Educational and promotional services will be carried out to foster public awareness of the significance of the Convention. The administration of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea will continue and efforts will be made to accommodate additional awards.

10.33 Based on the expansion and further development of the law of the sea information system, an information service will be developed and made available to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other specialized users on a regular basis. The information system, centred around the legislative data base and incorporating other marine-related data bases, will be further expanded to incorporate the United Nations Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea data base on marine minerals, and to cover additional fields of marine-related information and data, and to be interactive with other information systems.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ASSISTING MARINE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED OCEAN MANAGEMENT BY STATES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OCEAN REGIME

(a) Objectives

10.34 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/75 and 1987/84, and General Assembly resolution 40/63 and subsequent annual resolutions on the law of the sea. The mandate has been reaffirmed recently by the Assembly in its resolution 44/26, in particular in paragraphs 11-13.

10.35 The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides for the first time a single convention of a comprehensive and diverse nature, which, in one stride, has brought about changes of such complexity and magnitude that national Governments have been required to formulate new policies, review their marine-related activities and make new institutional and administrative arrangements. The Convention was formulated bearing in mind that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated. The traditional sectoral or one-dimensional approach to ocean management fails to optimize the benefits accruing from the resources and uses of marine areas because it overlooks linkages and interactions between marine-based activities and other activities contributing to the economy; it creates conflicts of use and, in particular, does not address problems of environmental degradation. While the need for an integrated ocean management approach is now widely accepted, there remain serious difficulties in implementing it. Most States, especially developing States, lack a cohesive marine policy. In addition, the formulation and implementation of marine programmes and the required national capabilities constitute tremendous problem areas, in particular for developing countries.

10.36 The objective of the subprogramme is to assist Member States in setting up policies relating to the marine sector and in developing and implementing an integrated management strategy for the optimum utilization of coastal and marine resources consistent with ecological considerations in the context of the comprehensive new legal régime for the oceans. Such policies must take into

account the extended maritime areas of sovereignty or national jurisdiction and the incorporation of the marine sector into national development. This also requires complementing national institutional infrastructures and strengthening national capabilities for the development and implementation of programmes for the marine sector, addressing the financial, scientific, technological and environmental aspects of marine activities.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

10.37 Research and analysis will be carried out at the national, subregional, regional and international levels on the needs and the preparations required for integrated ocean management in view of the implications of the Convention. Reviews and reports will be published in order to increase awareness of management issues regionally and internationally and at all levels. Reports will be provided, as appropriate, to intergovernmental bodies and to individual States.

10.38 With regard to marine policy development and implementation, and formulation of marine programmes, emphasis will be placed on the preparation and dissemination of studies and reports to facilitate Member States' efforts in developing methodologies, tools and techniques in support of integrated marine programmes, including those for information and data acquisition and their effective utilization. Examples of the areas of work envisaged are the development of regional, subregional and national marine profiles and data atlases, and of guidelines and criteria for the designation of "special areas". Specific problems related to management and institutional/regulatory arrangements will also be addressed.

10.39 With respect to marine science and technology, the Convention requires the establishment of national and regional marine scientific and technological research centres and the strengthening of existing national centres in order to stimulate and advance the conduct of marine scientific research and acquisition of marine technology by developing coastal States and to enhance their national capabilities to utilize their marine resources for economic benefit, with due regard to conservation. To do this, advisory services will be provided regionally or subregionally to: (a) identify existing capabilities of national and regional centres; (b) determine needs for the establishment of additional regional centres; and (c) determine arrangements for pooling existing resources.

10.40 With regard to the marine environment, efforts will be made to create an awareness of existing environmental regulations and guidelines at national and regional levels, and the modalities for their effective enforcement, and to learn from those experiences so that strains on ocean ecology can be alleviated through regional and subregional co-operation.

10.41 Bearing in mind that effective co-operation among States will facilitate environmentally sound ocean management and development and that the Convention calls consistently for co-operation that helps the pooling of resources and expertise and takes into account the ecological interdependence of contiguous parts of the oceans, promotion of co-operative approaches and strategies, and joint activities between States of a region or subregion will also be an important component of the subprogramme.

10.42 Provision of training services in the law of the sea, ocean management and marine policy and programme development will be an integral part of the

subprogramme. Upon request by States or organizations active in the marine sector, advisory services, institutional support and other technical backstopping for specific projects will be provided where programme resources are supplemented by extrabudgetary resources.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND HARMONIZATION OF MARINE AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Objectives

10.43 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/75, paragraph 3, and 1987/84, paragraphs 3 and 4, and General Assembly resolution 44/26, in particular paragraphs 11 and 12.

10.44 Prior to the adoption of a generally acceptable, uniformly applicable and comprehensive Convention on the Law of the Sea, the various organizations within the United Nations system developed their marine-related programmes on the basis of technical and specialized definitions of mandates, needs and opportunities. The Convention constitutes an umbrella under which the relevant organizations and specialized agencies within the United Nations system should carry out their marine-related activities in a manner consistent with the essential unity of the Convention. Those organizations and agencies often require support under the programme with a view to securing consistency of their marine-related activities under the legal régime established by the Convention.

10.45 The objective of the subprogramme is to provide that support to the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and to promote a concerted approach to the application and implementation of the Convention, especially in the formulation of legal instruments and marine related programmes in their specialized sectors. Joint action, when appropriate, will be taken in conjunction with the organizations and agencies in their respective specialized sectors of marine affairs.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

10.46 The United Nations system has, over the years, achieved a significant level of co-operation in the formulation and implementation of marine-related programmes. With the adoption of the Convention that highly effective co-operation was utilized to initiate the process to achieve the cohesion called for by the Convention.

10.47 During the period 1992-1997, the level of support and assistance will be intensified through the mechanisms and procedures already in existence. Efforts will be made further to strengthen co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the funding agencies, for work concerned with marine affairs in order to improve co-ordination, reflecting the comprehensive and interrelated nature of marine affairs in the light of the Convention. Concerted efforts and joint approaches will be promoted with respect to inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary activities, utilizing existing specialized mechanisms, such as the Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography. The consultative process initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea will be continued in order to strengthen co-operation and facilitate co-ordination.

10.48 Assistance and advisory services will be provided in support of those co-operative activities in order to secure the consistency of specialized sectoral activities with the requirements of the Convention and its interpretation. Such services relevant to the Convention's implications on the sectoral activity concerned, including the formulation and implementation of programmes, status reports on developments relating to the Convention and other information materials or briefings, will be provided to intergovernmental organizations, regional commissions, specialized agencies and so on for their use or for the use of their member States, or to intergovernmental meetings and conferences convened by them.

10.49 Co-operative arrangements with specialized agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system will also be promoted in order to provide Member States with studies, reports and advice on the implications of the new ocean régime on specialized marine-related conventions, treaties and other multilateral agreements and support in preparing necessary legal materials will be provided upon request.

10.50 Ongoing joint and co-operative activities will be continued and supplemented as necessary.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. SERVICING THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED AUTHORITY AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA AND SUPPORT TO THE FUTURE AUTHORITY AND TRIBUNAL

(a) Objectives

10.51 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular article 163 and annexes V and VI, and General Assembly resolution 44/26, paragraph 9.

10.52 During the medium-term plan period, the work of the Preparatory Commission is expected to be completed and the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will be in need of assistance from the Secretariat for the commencement of their operations. Those two bodies are expected to commence their functions as soon as possible following the entry into force of the Convention, which occurs one year after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification of or accession to the Convention.

10.53 The objectives of the subprogramme are to continue providing secretariat services to the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and to complete the necessary measures to ensure the entry into effective operation of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of their functions; and thereafter to provide assistance to the newly functioning organizations.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

10.54 During the first part of the plan period, the Secretariat is expected to conclude its work in servicing the Preparatory Commission. Preparations will be completed for the practical, institutional and administrative arrangements necessary for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to commence their functions.

10.55 During the next phase the Secretariat will prepare for and, in due time, convene and service the initial meetings of the International Sea-Bed Authority and its organs. Similarly, the Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of the functions of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

10.56 Pursuant to the co-operative/relationship arrangements between the International Sea-Bed Authority and the United Nations, and between the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the United Nations, as provided for in the Convention, the Secretariat will co-operate with and provide assistance to those organizations. The Enterprise, which is the operational organ of the Authority, will conduct exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed, and it is expected that it will also be provided with assistance under the subprogramme.

10.57 The Secretariat will discharge the Secretary-General's additional responsibilities mandated by the Convention relating to the activities of the International Tribunal, and also in relation to other procedures and forums for the settlement of disputes, namely, voluntary and compulsory international conciliation procedures, constitution of arbitral tribunals and procedures to be followed by them, and similar functions relating to specialized arbitration procedures.

10.58 The Secretary-General's other functions relating to the settlement of law of the sea disputes include conforming with the application of the Convention's dispute settlement procedures and his related functions regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes under articles 3 and 33 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Secretariat also has to co-ordinate with the Registrar of the Tribunal the application of the Convention's dispute settlement procedures in the light of the corresponding responsibilities of the Security Council. The Secretariat will also receive declarations of States parties accepting the jurisdiction of the several dispute settlement procedures under the Convention, including those accepting the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. Due communication and notification of those declarations will be required of States parties and others. The services of the Secretary-General will also be provided, as required, in facilitating the related activities of the International Tribunal and of the International Court of Justice, particularly with respect to disputes where provisional measures or preliminary proceedings have been taken in one forum and the merits of the case by another.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. SERVICING THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ESTABLISHED BY THE CONVENTION AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES, AND EXECUTION OF ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER THE CONVENTION

(a) Objectives

10.59 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular article 319 and annex II, and General Assembly resolution 44/26, paragraph 9.

10.60 The Convention on the Law of the Sea mandates a number of additional functions for the Secretary-General that are likely to be required during the plan period. These involve preparing for and servicing the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, necessary meetings of States parties and plenipotentiary conferences, presenting reports on issues of a general nature that have arisen with

respect to the Convention and fulfilling notifications and related requirements under the Convention.

10.61 The objectives of the subprogramme are to provide secretariat servicing of the intergovernmental bodies mentioned above and to execute effectively the additional functions of the Secretary-General under the Convention.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

10.62 By the end of 1991, substantial progress will have been made in the preparations for substantive servicing and logistical support for the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, meetings of States parties and plenipotentiary conferences, as well as for the other additional responsibilities of the Secretary-General.

10.63 During the initial phase of the period 1992-1997, those preparations will be completed. Thereafter, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf will be provided with secretariat services upon establishment. The Commission will review scientific and technical data pertaining to the application of a complex formula by which to effect the demarcation of the legal limits between a coastal State's continental shelf and the international sea-bed area. After a review of each case, the Commission will make recommendations to coastal States with regard to the limits of their continental shelf. The limits of the shelf established by coastal States on the basis of those recommendations will be final and binding and they in turn will establish the legal limits of the international sea-bed area. The Commission will act through subcommissions. The Secretariat will be called upon to provide advice and information not only on legal aspects, but also on specialized fields of marine geology, geophysics, geochemistry and hydrography, the elements of which are incorporated in the complex formula. The Secretariat will provide the necessary legal advisory services and other scientific and technological advisory services in the review and assessment of such data.

10.64 Meetings of States parties to the Convention and plenipotentiary conferences are to be convened as necessary by the Secretary-General. Secretariat services for such meetings would require preparation of relevant documentation and information, convening of the meetings or conferences and provision of advisory and substantive services and administrative support.

10.65 The reports on issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention, which are to be provided pursuant to the requirements under the Convention, will require analysis and assessment of the legal and political implications of governmental and intergovernmental activities globally, and their relationship with the Convention, its interpretation and application. Such actual and emerging issues will be reported to States parties, relevant intergovernmental bodies and agencies of the United Nations system.

10.66 The Secretary-General will also receive, record, give due publicity to and notify States parties of a variety of formal instruments dealing with such matters as declarations made when ratifying and acceding to the Convention, declarations of international organizations and their member States concerning periodic transfers of competence, proposed amendments to the Convention, and so on.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 11)
23 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME III. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

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* The present document contains programme 11 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 11. OVERALL ISSUES AND POLICIES, INCLUDING CO-ORDINATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

11.1 The orientation and objectives of the present programme derive from the mandate of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, as set out in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979. In accordance with those resolutions, the Director-General, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, assists him in carrying out his responsibilities as chief administrative officer in the economic and social fields.

11.2 The general responsibilities of the Director-General as set out in General Assembly resolution 32/197, entail:

(a) Ensuring the provision of effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising overall co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

(b) Ensuring, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extrabudgetary resources.

In addition, the Secretary-General is invited to entrust the Director-General with other tasks in areas of responsibility related to the economic and social activities of the United Nations.

11.3 Subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies and of the Secretary-General have further defined and elaborated the responsibilities of the Director-General in such areas as operational activities, science and technology for development, new and renewable sources of energy, environment, emergency and disaster situations, African economic recovery and development, programme planning and budgeting, as well as inter-agency affairs.

11.4 The rapid changes that have been taking place in the world since the end of the 1980s will have important implications and will present major new challenges for the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields during the period of the medium-term plan. The objective of the Director-General will be to keep abreast of developments, taking particular account of the development needs of developing countries, and to bring new and emerging issues to the attention of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies. In so doing, the Director-General will take into account issues of highest priority to the international community and will endeavour to improve the interaction and support between the United Nations and the public at large.

11.5 The programme also covers the activities of the World Food Council, the legislative mandate of which derives from the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference in 1974

and, in particular, resolution XXII of the Conference; General Assembly resolutions 3348 (XXIX) and 43/191; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/90 and 1989/88.

2. Overall strategy

11.6 The attainment of those objectives within the context of the medium-term plan will entail:

(a) Providing overall orientation and co-ordinating Secretariat inputs to intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Providing guidance on the translation of intergovernmental directives into substantive policies and programmes and into management terms;

(c) Promoting, within the Secretariat and among Member States, initiatives, options and alternative courses of action that would facilitate progress in the international dialogue on economic and social issues;

(d) Fostering the identification of emerging trends and innovative responses by the United Nations, drawing fully on the expertise of organizations of the United Nations system, as well as on appropriate expertise and eminent personalities outside the system;

(e) Providing analytical input to intergovernmental deliberations upon the request of the bodies concerned, including on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities, co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system and the functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors.

11.7 Given the nature of the responsibilities entrusted to the Office of the Director-General, it is not possible to identify in advance the full range of activities to be performed; rather, a capacity to adjust the work programme in response to unforeseen and new requirements is essential.

11.8 In implemention of its mandate to co-ordinate policies and action to combat world hunger, the World Food Council's emphasis in the medium term will shift from strengthening the commitment to eliminating hunger and building consensus for a framework of action, towards translating commitment and consensus into action. The strategy of the World Food Council stems from the Cairo Declaration and the Programme of Co-operative Action adopted at its 1989 session, and will aim at both the national and intergovernmental levels. At the national level, members of the Council are expected to increase their own efforts to implement the measures called for in the Declaration and to promote the Declaration's objectives in governmental and intergovernmental forums. At the intergovernmental level, the Council will promote and review progress in the implementation of the Cairo Declaration by the international community through its annual Ministerial session, through regional consultations by Council members, and through action by the Bureau.

11.9 In the co-ordination of efforts to combat world hunger, special attention will be accorded by the World Food Council to priority areas identified by General Assembly resolution 41/191 of 8 December 1986 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/88 of 26 July 1989, such as the impact of economic adjustment policies in developing countries on the nutritional levels of low-income groups,

South-South co-operation in food and agriculture and international agricultural trade issues in relation to food security objectives. Support to the efforts by African countries in addressing their critical food and hunger problems will continue to be a priority issue.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

11.10 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Monitoring of global economic and social issues

Subprogramme 2. Operational activities

Subprogramme 3. Inter-agency co-ordination

Subprogramme 4. Overall co-ordination and guidance of United Nations activities in the economic and social sectors

Subprogramme 5. Co-ordination of policies and programmes for the economic and social development of Africa

Subprogramme 6. Co-ordination of policies and action to combat world hunger

11.11 Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be implemented by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and subprogramme 6 (Co-ordination of policies and action to combat world hunger) will be implemented by the secretariat of the World Food Council.

11.12 It is difficult to establish priorities among the subprogrammes identified, given the overall responsibilities of the Director-General and the consequent need to adjust the work programme of the Office to respond to current requirements. It should be noted, however, that the General Assembly has accorded high priority to the economic and social recovery and development of Africa.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. MONITORING OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

(a) Objectives

11.13 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 37/224, 37/250, 42/177, 42/193, 43/27, 43/182, 44/14, 44/16, 44/24, 44/169, 44/205, 44/220, 44/228, 44/236 and decision 43/460.

11.14 In keeping with the overall responsibility to provide leadership in the field of development and international economic co-operation, the basic objective of the subprogramme is to support the work of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and to ensure the implementation of decisions taken. That would involve monitoring general developments in the international economic and social situation with a view to ensuring the adequacy and timeliness of documentation, active participation in intergovernmental meetings and negotiations and appropriate follow-up action to include the implementation of specific responsibilities entrusted to the Director-

General. In addition, the Director-General, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, takes action on his own initiative by responding to urgent economic, social and humanitarian problems. For example, during the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, it is anticipated that debt, the economic and social development of Africa, and the problems of least developed countries will remain areas of priority concern.

11.15 The Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries provides a general framework for United Nations activities in the economic and social fields. In addition, the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, as well as major conferences, such as the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (September, 1990), the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (1991), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) and the international meeting on population (1994), are expected to provide more specific guidelines. In the exercise of his responsibilities, the Director-General is called upon to provide effective leadership with a view to ensuring that the activities envisaged are carried out in a coherent and focused manner.

11.16 The Director-General will continue to promote the full implementation, and adaptation, as required, of ongoing programmes adopted by major United Nations conferences and meetings of intergovernmental bodies, such as:

(a) The Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979, and implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989 on the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action, through the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and in close co-operation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in close co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs;

(c) The Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, in close co-operation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat;

(d) The International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, in close co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO).

11.17 In addition, it is anticipated that activities will arise as a result of subsequent conferences and intergovernmental decisions, to include:

(a) The review of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In that context, the Director-General will work in close co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(b) The outcome of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development. In that context, the Director-General will work in close co-operation with the relevant entities of the United Nations and of the system.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.18 To achieve those objectives, the Office of the Director-General will seek:

(a) To monitor the evolution of the international economic and social situation: special attention will continue to be given to the critical issues of debt, trade, commodities, money and finance, and their interrelationships, as well as to the issues related to environment and development. Consideration will also be given to the interrelationships between political, economic and social developments in areas such as disarmament and development, and the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development requirements arising from special situations, such as decolonization and the resolution of conflicts;

(b) To monitor and promote the integration of social concerns into national and international development strategies: particular attention will be paid to the development of human resources, the alleviation of poverty, the social aspects of adjustment, the advancement of women and the problems of specific disadvantaged groups. In addition, the Director-General will monitor related problems with an international dimension, such as international drug control, and crime prevention and control;

(c) To provide assistance to Member States in international negotiations: special attention will be given to initiatives to promote dialogue on international co-operation for economic and social development;

(d) To ensure timely and coherent secretariat support to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, highlighting the need for the Secretariat to improve the drafting of clear policy recommendations submitted to intergovernmental bodies for consideration;

(e) To promote the implementation of programmes adopted by conferences and intergovernmental bodies;

(f) To serve as a focal point at United Nations Headquarters for disaster and emergency situations: the Secretary-General has entrusted the Director-General with the responsibility, on a continuing basis, of ensuring that he is kept fully informed on potential and existing disaster situations so as to be in a position to take appropriate action. Appropriate arrangements are made with UNDRO to assist in carrying out those responsibilities;

(g) To ensure implementation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, through monitoring, promotion and co-ordination of activities and preparation and/or clearance of reports of the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant entities of the United Nations and of the United Nations system.

11.19 The modalities envisaged by the Director-General will include convening meetings of senior officials and seeking independent advice and outside expertise, including from research institutions both within and outside the United Nations, such as the United Nations University. Such modalities will be carried out in close co-operation with all relevant entities of the United Nations and of the United Nations system.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(a) Objectives

11.20 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 35/81, 38/171, 41/171, 42/196, 43/199 and 44/211.

11.21 The overall objective of the Director-General will be to improve the efficiency and effectiveness, coherence and co-ordination of operational activities, particularly those financed on a grant basis in support of development efforts at the country level. The effort will be to achieve a more multidisciplinary and country-responsive approach and an enhancement of the system's non-project services to developing countries. In that context, the Director-General will co-operate with the operational entities of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund, World Food Programme (WFP) and the specialized agencies and technical bodies involved in operational activities.

11.22 In that context, the General Assembly has called for efforts in the following areas:

(a) Assisting countries to achieve self-reliance through strengthening appropriate development management capabilities at the national, sectoral and local levels;

(b) Assisting countries to achieve more effective use of domestic and external resources for development by enhanced national capacities for development design co-ordination and by decentralized and more coherent and programme-oriented work by the United Nations system;

(c) Meeting the challenge of interdependence, by facilitating the acquisition by developing countries of essential skills, ensuring their access to information as a basis for meaningful linkages between global issues and the experience and developmental processes of individual countries or groups of countries, and by promoting government-led dialogue between developing countries and their partners on coherent and sustainable development strategies and investment programmes;

(d) Assisting countries, on request, in broadening adjustment processes by integrating the social dimension, reconciling medium-term macro-economic adjustment with the imperatives of long-term development, including sustained investment in human development and protection of the most vulnerable groups, in particular women and children, and ensuring access to accurate, relevant and timely economic and social statistics;

(e) Assisting in the promotion of participatory approaches to development, releasing the potential and mobilizing the capacities of the widest possible range of beneficiaries in developing countries.

11.23 The Director-General will promote a joint approach to country-specific multi-year programming through greater decentralization of programming to the country level with the headquarters and regional offices of organizations providing substantive and technical advice, the synchronization of programming cycles and harmonization of procedures of the United Nations system with those of host Governments, and the development of cross-programming instruments and methodologies.

11.24 The Director-General will promote an enhanced role and effectiveness of the resident co-ordinator system, through the promotion of country teams under the overall leadership of the resident co-ordinators and the strengthening of the human capacities of the United Nations development system especially at the country level.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.25 To achieve those objectives, the Office of the Director-General will seek:

(a) To carry out a three-year plan of action to implement the specific recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989. The plan will be developed in consultation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Other intergovernmental bodies will be kept abreast of the development and implementation of the plan of action;

(b) To prepare technical studies and country reviews as follow-up to the implementation of the plan of action;

(c) To analyse and formulate, in consultation with concerned United Nations bodies and organizations, policy options on specific issues such as the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operational activities, the quality of external advisory, country team and technical personnel and the development and application of information systems and cost-effective programme delivery;

(d) To review the role and effectiveness of the resident co-ordinator network, to assist in the designation of the resident co-ordinators, to provide guidance for the exercise of their functions and to follow-up on their annual reports;

(e) To prepare annual reports and triennial comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities for development, including special theme studies relating to global issues and goals, and technical analyses with recommendations for the more efficient and sensitive delivery of United Nations system co-operation programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATION

(a) Objectives

11.26 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 43/174, 44/103 and 44/194; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114.

11.27 The overall objective will be to ensure coherent input of the United Nations system into the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies and at the country level.

11.28 The Director-General will assist the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), in making better use of available resources in the United Nations system and of the existing inter-agency machinery, in order to enhance co-operation and co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system. To facilitate inter-agency co-ordination, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of the Director-General has been designated to serve as Chairman of the Organizational Committee and Secretary of ACC.

11.29 Specific objectives include:

(a) Promoting greater co-operation among organizations of the United Nations system through ACC and other machinery in ensuring complimentarity of activities and timely and coherent responses to requests of intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Promoting greater co-operation among organizations of the United Nations system on information, including greater access to existing data bases of organizations of the system;

(c) Promoting greater inter-action between intergovernmental bodies and secretariats of organizations of the United Nations system;

(d) Promoting greater transparency of the activities of organizations of the United Nations system, including provision of information on programmes and resources.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.30 To achieve those objectives, the Office of the Director-General will seek:

(a) To ensure the provision of substantive and technical support to ACC, its Organizational Committee, the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities), and a number of ad hoc co-ordinating mechanisms, such as meetings of senior officials, and the working groups convened by the Secretary-General on specific issues, such as external debt, commodities, financial flows and Africa;

(b) To promote and monitor, in close co-operation with the Advisory Committee for Co-ordination of Information Systems, the preparation of a system-wide data base containing information on programmes, activities and resources of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, as a basis for improving co-operation among organizations for the benefit of the system. Such information would also be useful to Member States in their efforts to improve co-ordination at the intergovernmental level;

(c) To promote better interaction between United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies involved in co-ordination, through the organization, co-ordination and preparation of input to and follow-up to the annual Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and ACC;

(d) To prepare the annual overview report of ACC, taking into account guidelines emanating from intergovernmental bodies designed to make it more analytical and more forward-looking and to provide succinct information to Member States, as requested by them, on programmes and resources.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. OVERALL CO-ORDINATION AND GUIDANCE OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS

(a) Objectives

11.31 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 37/234, 41/213, 43/174 and 44/103.

11.32 The overall objective is to support the Secretary-General in the exercise of his responsibilities for the direction of the economic and social sectors of the Organization and the establishment of overall policy guidelines aimed at improving the coherence and effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields. To that end, the effort will be to promote and co-ordinate the translation of intergovernmental directives into work programmes of the United Nations and to promote efficiency, effectiveness and coherence in United Nations activities in the economic and social fields.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.33 To achieve those objectives, the Office of the Director-General will seek:

(a) To develop, in full consultation with senior officials, an annual objective-oriented work plan, taking into account the decisions of relevant intergovernmental bodies, such as the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(b) To promote a joint policy-planning capacity within the United Nations to assist the Secretary-General, which would assess long-term policy options for the Organization and consider integrated, multisectoral approaches to development-related problems;

(c) To provide support to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary economic and social machinery with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency, including assistance in co-ordinating the formulation of their draft agendas and programmes of work, and measures to rationalize and improve the quality and timely submission of Secretariat documentation;

(d) To ensure the preparation of thematic analyses to provide a framework for in-depth discussions by the Economic and Social Council on specific issues in the economic and social field;

(e) To provide guidance and support to the regional commissions in the promotion and strengthening of interregional, regional and subregional co-operation, including through the organization and chairmanship of the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions;

(f) To assist the Secretary-General in providing guidance and orientation for the translation of intergovernmental directives in the economic and social fields into plans and programmes, to include the assignment of responsibilities for the implementation of intergovernmental decisions;

(g) To assist the Secretary-General in the planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation processes in the Organization, including secretariat support to the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board, chaired by the Director-General in the absence of the Secretary-General, and contributing to secretariat support to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

(h) To advise the Secretary-General on appropriate Secretariat arrangements in the economic and social fields.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. CO-ORDINATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA

(a) Objectives

11.34 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 43/27, 44/24 and decision 44/411.

11.35 The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, has its origins in the grave economic crisis confronting Africa, a situation which will undoubtedly continue to require special attention throughout the decade. The Programme of Action reflects mutual commitments by African Governments to provide the necessary framework to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development and growth and by the international community to assist Africa in achieving that objective. The Secretary-General is called upon to co-ordinate the assistance and support of the United Nations system and to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action.

11.36 The mid-term review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 concluded with a reaffirmation that dealing with the African crisis remains a priority for the United Nations and the international community. The final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action will be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The results of that review will provide further guidance on the objectives to be pursued under the present subprogramme.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.37 Specific activities to be undertaken include:

(a) Promoting a co-ordinated and effective response by the United Nations system, including the establishment of appropriate inter-agency mechanisms;

(b) Monitoring the evolution of African economic and social development with a view to identifying and promoting activities that would contribute to the long-term restructuring and transformation of African economies toward accelerated self-sustained growth, development and equity;

(c) Ensuring the necessary support for intergovernmental deliberations on African economic and social development issues, including the preparation of documentation;

(d) Promoting the implementation of decisions and policy guidelines adopted by intergovernmental bodies;

(e) Assisting in mobilizing the international community in support of African economic and social development, including public information programmes and support of activities of non-governmental organizations;

(f) Serving as a focal point at Headquarters for activities related to African economic and social development.

11.38 Substantive and operational responsibility for activities in support of

African economic and social development lies with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and is reflected, as appropriate, in the relevant programmes of the medium-term plan. In carrying out the responsibilities outlined above, the Office of the Director-General will work in close co-ordination with those entities and, in particular with the Economic Commission for Africa.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. CO-ORDINATION OF POLICIES AND ACTION TO COMBAT WORLD HUNGER

(a) Objectives

11.39 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition of the World Food Conference, held in 1974, and in particular resolution XXII of the Conference; General Assembly resolutions 3348 (XXIX) and 43/191; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/90 and 1989/88.

11.40 In general, the continuing objectives of the World Food Council, as the United Nations intergovernmental body dealing with food policies and action by Governments and organizations to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, will be:

(a) To sustain and expand a global campaign for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition and their poverty-related causes;

(b) To review and co-ordinate policies and programmes of Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, and advocate innovative approaches to food and hunger-related issues;

(c) To predict and assess, in a rapidly changing global environment, emerging food and hunger problems in a timely fashion;

(d) To mobilize assistance to Governments in support of their hunger alleviation efforts.

11.41 World Food Council analyses suggest that the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world increased in the 1980s and that, as socio-economic conditions become more complex, hunger alleviation will become more difficult in the 1990s. While reversing those trends is primarily the responsibility of Governments, the United Nations and its system of organizations would assist Governments in achieving that goal by increasing their efforts in the following areas:

(a) A major effort will be required to raise the level of political support for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, both nationally and internationally;

(b) The alleviation of hunger will require significant policy changes towards a sharper focus on the needs of the hungry poor. The United Nations will assist, as required, in the formulation of hunger-focused policies;

(c) As the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have emphasized, to enhance their response to specific country needs, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system should improve the co-ordination of their activities and their collaboration towards common goals and complementary programme approaches;

(d) Positive results in the above areas should facilitate the necessary mobilization of external resources in support of the efforts of developing countries to eradicate hunger;

(e) Individual efforts of developing countries should be supported by the United Nations to help improve the international economic environment in such areas as external debt, resource flows and international trade. Improvements in those areas could contribute to the implementation of national hunger-focused policies and programmes.

11.42 The specific objectives of the subprogramme include the promotion of, and support to, implementation of the World Food Council Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World adopted in 1988, and the Cairo Declaration and Programme of Co-operative Action adopted in 1989. The Declaration provides a broad flexible framework for action by the international community to reduce hunger in the 1990s. It calls on countries to establish their own hunger-alleviation goals, suggesting the achievement in the 1990s of the elimination of starvation and death caused by famine; a substantial reduction in malnutrition and mortality among children; a tangible reduction in chronic hunger; and the elimination of major nutritional-deficiency diseases.

11.43 To attain those goals, a range of actions is proposed for modification to specific country needs, including:

(a) Increased political support for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition at both the national and international level;

(b) Economic and social measures to increase access to food by the poor, and improvement in the nutritional levels of the most vulnerable groups;

(c) Measures to increase food production and improve its distribution through national food strategies that seek to achieve a sustainable reduction of hunger, with special attention to the participation of women;

(d) Policies to direct greater benefits from economic growth to the poor through human resources development;

(e) Measures to improve the effectiveness of development assistance by means of a sharper and better co-ordinated focus on the needs of the poorest;

(f) Efforts to improve the international economic environment in terms of resource flows, trade, aid and solutions to the debt problem;

(g) Measures to enhance South-South co-operation;

(h) Improved international action to meet food emergencies.

11.44 Special efforts will be made to anticipate potentially critical food and hunger problems that will arise early in the next century, thus providing a vision of the longer-term challenges to be met, while addressing the urgent needs of the present.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

11.45 The secretariat of the World Food Council will provide substantive support to the Council's annual Ministerial session, regional consultations, and other meetings of the Bureau. The secretariat's continuing function will be to support the efforts of the Council, principally directed at:

(a) Continuing advocacy of hunger-alleviation objectives at the political and policy-making levels, in national and international forums, and through public information media;

(b) Consultations with Governments to help translate commitment into action;

(c) Regular review and analysis of major problems and policy issues affecting the world hunger situation, including long-term assessments of food supplies, hunger, and socio-economic trends in order to predict and avert emerging food and hunger-related problems;

(d) Review of successful policies and programmes and the dissemination of their results, which may include assessments of food-strategy experience in Africa, bi-annual policy reviews in Latin America and the Caribbean, and comparable efforts in Asia;

(e) Continued promotion of, and resource mobilization for, hunger-focused policies and programmes, notably national food strategies, including support to food policy management training in Africa;

(f) Promotion of regional and South-South co-operation in food and agriculture, including support for implementation of the UNDP "Umbrella Project" developed in consultation with the World Food Council;

(g) Improved co-ordination of national and international measures for a more concerted attack on hunger, focusing initially on multilateral agencies, expanding to include bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and other private-sector institutions, through inter-agency meetings, consultations with organizations and institutions, and international conferences.

11.46 The secretariat of the World Food Council will co-ordinate its activities with organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the international financial institutions. The World Food Council secretariat will continue to represent the United Nations and participate in the work programme of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 12)
18 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

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* The present document contains programme 12 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 12. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

A. Programme

1. General orientation

12.1 The general orientation and objectives of this programme are derived from General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. The goal of the programme is to assist intergovernmental bodies in their responsibility to address international development issues and to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, as provided by the Charter of the United Nations. The work of the intergovernmental bodies in this area is wide-ranging and requires extensive monitoring of the world economy. The programme also has the responsibility for bringing to the attention of intergovernmental bodies new and emerging economic and social issues that would affect world development, and for system-wide co-operation in development research.

12.2 According to paragraph 61 of the annex to resolution 32/197 the programme should focus on interdisciplinary research and analysis, drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system. On the basis of the relevant legislative authority, this function includes: (a) preparing, on a regular basis, global economic and social surveys and projection to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of their responsibilities; (b) undertaking in-depth intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues, in close collaboration with those elements of the United Nations system engaged in similar work and taking into account relevant work in the various sectoral components of the United Nations system, and preparing concise and action-oriented recommendations on those issues in accordance with the requirements of the Assembly and the Council, for consideration by those organs; and (c) identifying and bringing to the attention of Governments emerging economic and social issues of international concern.

12.3 The outcome of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, held from 24 April to 1 May 1990, and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade to be adopted at the forty-fifth session of the Assembly will be principal policy directives for the general orientation of the programme. The results of the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1990, and on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 will be incorporated in the programme as appropriate.

12.4 The agendas of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations in the 1980s reflected great changes in the international economic situation. A slow down in the world economy in the early 1980s, accompanied by great swings in terms of trade, exchanges rates and interest rates, affected the economic situations of all countries and brought especially acute problems for heavily indebted developing countries. The debt overhang and its implications for growth and development have emerged as important issues requiring urgent attention. The development crisis in Africa has come to be recognized as a long-term problem calling for greater efforts of the international community as well as of African countries themselves. However, some developing countries have met with considerable success in their development efforts.

12.5 The global economy was subjected to many shocks during the 1980s. Increased uncertainty and instability of key variables, which have a major impact on the economies of all countries, in particular the developing countries, have made its future course more unpredictable. The interrelationships between trade, money and finance and the policies pursued by major industrial countries are key factors that influence the international economic environment. Greater stability of those variables, through enhanced co-ordination and consistency in policies, the gradual elimination of external and internal imbalances and better surveillance through strengthened international trade and financial régimes will remain major objectives of the international community in the years to come. A close monitoring and analysis of global economic developments will help identify problems to be addressed through enhanced international co-operation.

12.6 One of the principal characteristics of the world economy at the present time that will persist in the next decade is the pressure of structural change. A major cause of the need for structural adjustment is the rapid emergence of new technologies and the need to absorb them. This process is hampered by uncertainties about future monetary and financial conditions, which influence trade and capital flows and the patterns of comparative advantage. Analysis and experience in that field will help provide the basis for appropriate policy recommendations.

12.7 New institutions and changes in attitudes, as well as the rapid evolution of telecommunications, will considerably affect the pace of social development. At the same time, the process of structural changes and adjustment in all economies will have profound effects on the social situation. The deterioration in social conditions in developing countries that took place during the 1980s will need to be arrested and reversed. There is an active search for new paradigms of development and governance in a number of countries in Eastern Europe. Changes in fundamental social institutions in developed market economy countries have brought to the forefront new expectations regarding social development activities. In the 1990s, the critical role of the development of human resources in the socio-economic development process will be re-examined to seek more integrated approaches to all aspects of human resources development, an essential pre-condition for development and the ultimate aim of development. Furthermore, new diseases such as AIDS, new patterns of disease in developing countries as populations grow older, and the need for eliminating illiteracy and for reviewing the content of education in a period of social advances in technology will be among the major social challenges in the 1990s. New approaches to redress the severity of problems of poverty, malnutrition, inadequate housing and sanitary facilities will be important considerations in the social policies of many countries, in particular, developing countries. Policies to reduce gross inequalities in conditions of well-being, in access to services and in opportunities for betterment of all groups, particularly those that have been disadvantaged, will continue to be of significance in the 1990s. Policies for social development will continue to compete for limited resources, both domestic and foreign, especially given the serious constraints resulting from the debt crisis. It is expected that some relief in the social sector may be brought about by the trend to reallocate resources from disarmament to the social areas.

12.8 Political and economic changes of historical scope are occurring in countries that have begun to undertake a transition from central planning to a greater reliance on decentralized economic decision-making and have sought greater integration in the rest of the world economy.

12.9 Global environmental concerns claim increasing attention as it is realized that both affluence and poverty contribute to the destruction of the conditions of survival for future generations. Lifestyles, consumption levels and technologies in industrial countries have been recognized as unsustainable, often in terms of the environmental destruction they have already occasioned, and certainly in terms of the consequences of their world-wide adoption. Similarly, the devastating effects on the environment of patterns of production in many of the poorest countries are recognized as incompatible with their future development needs.

12.10 The rates of savings and of growth of capital formation appear to have slowed down in all regions of the world in the 1980s. Policies will need to be developed and implemented at the national and international levels that encourage savings and capital formation and that provide substantially increased flow of capital to developing countries on terms and conditions that are in consonance with their need for sustained growth and development.

12.11 In recent decades, the developing countries have made significant advances in expanding and enhancing their technical and institutional capacity to plan and manage their economic and social development. However, particularly in recent years, those same developing countries have experienced serious constraints on the resources available to them for development, which have included low international prices for raw materials, widespread international economic instability and concomitant foreign-debt burdens and balance-of-payments problems. Those constraints have emphasized the importance to developing countries of maximizing the benefit they obtain from the resources available to them. Development planning - that is, planning and managing economic and social development - is a key tool for achieving this.

12.12 Thanks to the advances that many developing countries have made in their own capacity for development planning they are now able to use and absorb specific planning techniques and methodologies most appropriate to their individual circumstances and needs. Similarly, the international community, including the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, has improved its ability to respond to the needs and requests of developing countries for technical co-operation in the field of development issues and policies, both by accumulating considerable experience and expertise and by developing and enhancing its own technical capacity through operation-related research.

12.13 It is with this background and within this framework that technical co-operation in development issues and policies will be undertaken in the period 1992-1997. It will address the specific needs of each developing country in enhancing the technical and institutional capacity to plan and manage its own economic and social development. It will aim at fully sustainable development taking full account of the need for a unified approach to economic and social development at all levels, including the environmental aspects of development, and of the full and effective participation of the entire population at all stages of development.

2. Overall strategy

12.14 The main task of the programme is to monitor and appraise world economic development, to analyse issues of current and emerging concern, as well as long-term concern, to the international community, to study alternative policy

measures, in particular the enhancement of international economic co-operation, for consideration by intergovernmental bodies, by Governments and policy makers and to undertake operational activities as appropriate. Forward-looking research and analysis that are intended to enable the assessment of future needs will be carried out, notably in the areas of global projections, environment, savings and energy and their interrelationship. Wide consultations will be held with scholars, academic institutions, policy makers and eminent persons, and other innovative means such as symposia, seminars and expert meetings will be used to enrich and enhance the research and analytical capacity under the programme and maximize the outputs and their relevance to the needs and concerns of Member States and intergovernmental bodies. The programme also has as its primary purpose the provision of assistance to relevant intergovernmental bodies in ensuring that the work programmes of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system are compatible and mutually complementary and are implemented with maximum regard for efficiency and effectiveness.

12.15 The developing countries will be assisted, at their request and according to individual circumstances and needs, in strengthening their technical and institutional capacity (a) to formulate, analyse and evaluate their economic and social development strategies and policies and prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate their national, subnational and multinational development plans and programmes; (b) to develop, implement and monitor their investment programmes and projects; (c) to co-ordinate the international technical and financial assistance available to them; and (d) to formulate, implement and evaluate integrated rural development and community development programmes and projects and other grass-roots development schemes.

12.16 This assistance will be provided through direct advisory services to the Governments of developing countries, technical co-operation projects financed mainly from extrabudgetary sources, training activities including international seminars and workshops, and operation-oriented research and pilot studies to enhance the quality and thereby the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

12.17 This programme is implemented by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in particular the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis, and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

12.18 In carrying out its tasks, the programme draws upon the work of other programmes, in particular programme 24 (Statistics) and programme 18 (Population), as well as relevant programmes of other entities of the United Nations system, focusing on the interrelations among different trends, issues and policies and on the development of a comprehensive and synthesized approach. Co-operation and co-ordination are maintained with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the economic and social research institutions, and the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. The co-operation includes, inter alia, exchange of information, data and expertise, co-ordination of work programmes, the preparation of joint studies and reports, and provision of inputs for inter-agency meetings.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

12.19 In light of that orientation and those objectives, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Monitoring and assessment of current global economic issues and policies

Subprogramme 2. Problems and prospects of integrated development

Subprogramme 3. External debt and development

Subprogramme 4. Mobilization of financial resources, taxation and entrepreneurship

Subprogramme 5. Development perspectives and early identification of emerging issues

Subprogramme 6. Development and the environment

Subprogramme 7. System-wide analysis of specific areas within the economic and social programmes

Subprogramme 8. Interorganizational co-operation

Subprogramme 9. Integrated development planning and policies

Subprogramme 10. Planning and co-ordination of international co-operation (including country programming)

Subprogramme 11. Design and implementation of emerging cross-sectoral programmes

Subprogrammes 1 to 8 will be the responsibility of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Subprogrammes 9 to 11 will be the responsibility of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

12.20 Subprogrammes 1, 5 and 9 have been designated highest priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

12.21 The legislative authority of subprogramme 1 derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/174, 39/226, 40/173, 41/184, 42/165, 42/193, 42/195, 42/198, 43/182, 44/169, 44/170, 44/171 and 44/231 and decisions 42/440, 44/444 and 44/459; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/51, section VI, paragraph 5 (c), 1986/75, 1988/49, 1988/75, 1988/76, 1989/85, 1989/105, 1989/111 and 1989/113.

12.22 Structural and political changes have lately combined in a globalization of world markets that calls for a comprehensive view of the world economy as a whole. At the same time, the need to enhance predictability has emerged as an important global issue, giving rise to calls for a larger measure of international economic security.

12.23 Issues of development and change are becoming more complex, requiring close and constant scrutiny. Among the other major changes in the 1990s are regional integration among developed market economies and seminal changes in economic structure and policies in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the countries of Eastern Europe. Problems of development in large areas of the developing world, after a decade of decline, will remain paramount. This is especially true of Africa, Latin America and parts of Asia and particularly of a vast number of least developed countries that have been stagnating at a very low level of per capita income. It will be necessary to respond to those problems and to continue the national and international efforts to revive and maintain the growth momentum in other developing regions. The promotion of growth-oriented adjustment and other appropriate policies of development and international co-operation is required in order to minimize social and economic costs of adjustment and maximize the gains that the new challenges and opportunities offer, for the benefit of all countries and groups.

12.24 The task of the subprogramme is to produce an overall view of the economic problems of the world. In an increasingly interdependent world and in an atmosphere where economic variables change fast, predictability of events is necessarily difficult, requiring frequent and repeated examination of current developments that contain the seed of future trends. The necessity for examination of short-term changes is superimposed on the need for scrutiny of longer-term issues in the social and economic fields. It is important that short-term developments not adversely affect development of human and physical capital, technological change and structural transformation, the contribution of women to the development process, and the environment.

12.25 The objective of the subprogramme is to provide the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other legislative bodies with systematic analysis and assessment of current global economic issues and trends and of their interrelations and implications for international and national action. The aim of accelerating development in developing countries in the context of global economic expansion has become a critical international issue, and economic trends in the 1990s will have to be assessed in depth.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.26 Analysis of economic performance and of emerging social and economic issues and trends will continue at the global level and at the level of country groups and will be undertaken annually, as mid-year and end-year updates of the annual assessments, and as part of the review of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

12.27 The examination of multilateral approaches - in particular the trade and financial régimes - will remain important to ensure broad-based, sustained, non-inflationary growth in the world economy in the years ahead.

12.28 The principal vehicle of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of this responsibility is the preparation of the annual world economic survey, mandated since 1947. It is expected that many additional ad hoc reports requested by intergovernmental bodies, and covering different aspects of the world economy will have to be prepared for the Council and the Assembly.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

12.29 The legislative authority for subprogramme 2 derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/29, 40/40, 40/182, S-13/2, 41/182, 42/49, 42/51, 42/64, 42/163, 42/186, 42/187, 42/193, 43/53, 43/182, 43/195, 43/196, 44/55, 44/56, 44/57, 44/58, 44/211, 44/212, 44/213, 44/232 and 44/233, and decisions 41/440, 42/429 and 44/411; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/56, 1987/81, 1987/93, 1988/49, 1988/74, 1988/75, 1988/76, 1988/112, 1989/13, 1989/89, 1989/93, 1989/110, 1989/113 and 1989/120.

12.30 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to carry out multisectoral and integrated analysis of a broad range of socio-economic issues with a view to presenting to intergovernmental bodies an integrated view of development problems and prospects, and (b) to produce studies and reports with policy options and recommendations on those problems and prospects, including the interrelationship between economic and social factors and the social and environmental soundness of the development process for enhancing international co-operation and strengthening national efforts aimed at the alleviation of the problems.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.31 Research and analysis will be undertaken to assess global changes in economic and social conditions, to elaborate upon the nature of problems that arise in the process of those changes and to examine the nature and consequences of policies and policy instruments available to Governments and intergovernmental organizations. Of special immediate interest are problems relating to long-term changes resulting from economic stabilization and structural adjustment policies and their interactions with social development, especially the allocation of resources to social sectors, changing patterns of income distribution, and consequences of the incidence of unemployment and underemployment, poverty and malnutrition.

12.32 The content of major social services - education, health, housing and welfare and community services - will be studied among countries and over time in order to understand the most productive ways of responding to changes in the composition of the population, morbidity and mortality patterns, the need to equalize opportunities for education among regions, the sexes and other groups and to absorb and use available innovative technology. Changing social institutions such as the family and new behaviour patterns, including the participation of women in the work force, will be areas for research. The focus on key aspects of human resource development will remain important during this decade.

12.33 As new policies and policy instruments require new institutional arrangements for their implementation, the reassessment of the role of Governments in furthering the processes of economic and social development, the nature of markets, the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the efficiency and

efficacy of selected institutions will be subjects of research and analysis during the period of the plan. Those questions will be especially important to many countries, in particular those of Eastern Europe, where innovation in institutional arrangements is expected, and in the least developed countries, especially in Africa, where the reform of existing institutions and the emergence of new institutions are considered important.

12.34 Research, studies and analyses will be undertaken on the interrelationship between economic and social factors and the consequences of changes in demography and incomes, advances in technology on the physical and the social environment and means of maximizing benefits and minimizing long-term costs to society; studies will be undertaken to examine the transformation of selected economic and social institutions to foster faster, more efficient and equitable growth patterns, to identify patterns of human resources development more conducive to desired patterns of economic growth, and to identify national and multilateral policies to help prevent the spread of emerging social ills, such as drugs and AIDS, which have important international dimensions.

12.35 Studies will be prepared on policies for the eradication of poverty and on national and international distribution of income and social benefits in relation to different patterns of production. Review will also be carried out of the interrelationships of various social and economic factors, in the context of development plans and strategies for the 1990s.

12.36 The levelling and eventual reduction of defence expenditures in developed and developing countries open the opportunity to shift human and financial resources to social and economic programmes domestically and internationally. Those eventual shifts and the social and economic impact in the sectors or areas concerned will be analysed in collaboration with regional commissions and relevant organs of the United Nations system.

12.37 Also during this period, studies on the transfer of resources to and from developing countries will continue, providing assessments of the flow of financial resources between the developing and developed countries, with analyses of ways of enhancing such flows and maximizing their benefits.

12.38 Research and policy-oriented analysis will also be focused on aspects of the world economy of relevance to national development in developing countries and on measures for enhancing international co-operation and for strengthening national efforts for integrated development. Attention will be given to the development and strengthening of links with the international scientific and intellectual community, in particular the non-governmental organizations and the regional commissions, with respect to regional problems.

12.39 To draw on resources not readily available in the Secretariat, to heighten the awareness of the public about matters of economic and social development considered by the United Nations and to better disseminate the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, a series of seminars and symposia will be held during the plan period. The subjects and terms for those meetings will be selected from among the subjects discussed above and from mandates received from intergovernmental bodies and international conferences.

12.40 Another continuing activity is the preparation of analyses of the special problems of low-income countries, particularly those in Africa. Institutional transformation, structural changes and social and economic policies in the region will be explored in relation to the relationship of Africa with other regions, and specific recommendations for international co-operation will be forthcoming. This work will be done in close co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. EXTERNAL DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

12.41 The legislative authority for subprogramme 3 derives from General Assembly resolutions 40/477, 41/202, 41/163, 42/198, 43/27, 43/198 and 44/205; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/76.

12.42 Present indications are that the debt problems of the developing countries will continue into the 1990s. The complexity of the problem is rooted in its gravity and long duration and in the interplay of a large number of factors: the diversity of the creditors, the widely differing capacity to repay and the social and political ramifications of protracted economic crises. Adverse external situations, such as falling commodity prices and rising interest rates, have compounded the problem. The debt overhang is an obstacle to development and has assumed a political dimension.

12.43 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to monitor the debt situation in its various aspects, (b) to search for new approaches and to evolve appropriate development strategies to support multilateral, national and bilateral efforts in resolving the external debt crisis of developing countries and other highly indebted countries and (c) to examine the implications of the debt crisis for the world economy.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.44 Research and analysis will be undertaken to monitor the debt situation in its various aspects, and consultations will be carried out with those who are either actually involved in debt discussions or who have an intimate understanding of the problem to search for new approaches and evolve appropriate development strategies that are based on lessons from the crisis that led to the economic stagnation in the 1980s in heavily indebted countries.

12.45 The debt problem has many aspects including political and social ramifications. The interaction among debt-servicing difficulties, investment and output growth are particularly important and will be reviewed in depth. In addition, special attention will be given to the social consequences of the adjustment efforts and the changing economic situation in developing countries with debt-servicing difficulties.

12.46 Since aspects of external debt are being examined in UNCTAD, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and in the regional commissions, the planned activities under the subprogramme will continue to be undertaken in close co-operation and co-ordination with these organizations with a view to ensure complementarity.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, TAXATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(a) Objectives

12.47 The legislative authority for subprogramme 4 derives from General Assembly resolutions 35/66, annex, paragraphs 96 and 110, and 41/182; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/13 and 1988/74.

12.48 In the 1980s financial institutions in many developing countries faced serious difficulties. The domestic financial resources were not always utilized to the greatest extent for economic and social development, and there was a need to reduce the gap between potential and actually mobilized resources through the formulation and implementation of sound and appropriate fiscal and financial policies. In the fiscal area, tax policies were required that would improve the assessment and collection of taxes and the allocation of expenditure. International co-operation on tax matters is important in this regard because developing countries, like developed countries, lose substantial financial resources as a result of international tax evasion and avoidance. Furthermore, measures such as the elimination of double taxation and the inclusion of tax-sparing provisions in national tax legislation of capital exporting countries and the conclusion of bilateral tax treaties would help developing countries attract greater amounts of foreign investment.

12.49 Developing countries have not yet fully exploited the contribution that entrepreneurship can make to economic development. This situation is partly due to national policies not sufficiently geared to the promotion of entrepreneurship, to deficiencies in institution building and to a lack of targeted technical assistance for small entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the development of entrepreneurship in developing countries suffered from the unfavourable international economic environment in the 1980s, in particular from the lack of sufficient export opportunities and inadequate availability of capital.

12.50 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to study issues related to the mobilization of financial resources, taxation and entrepreneurship and to provide policy options and recommendations to assist developing countries in mobilizing all available domestic financial resources and foreign financial resources on terms and conditions compatible with national priorities and legislation; and (b) to recommend appropriate fiscal and financial policies and measures in support of development, including measures to reform tax systems, combat tax evasion and widen the tax base, and to develop options for broad based development and encouraging indigenous entrepreneurs.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.51 Policy-oriented research will be undertaken on the structure and functioning of the financial sector of developing countries. Issues such as interest rate policies, credit allocation, prudential regulations, supervision of institutions and markets, as well as new financial institutions and markets will be addressed with a view to mobilizing additional savings. Research and consultations will be undertaken with a view to establishing a multilateral convention on mutual assistance in tax collection with guidelines for international co-operation aimed at combating tax evasion and avoidance. Increased attention will be given to the development and formulation of guidelines for tax treatment of branch and

subsidiary profits, international leasing of ships, containers, commercial equipment, aircraft leasing, and transfer pricing questions. Research will be undertaken on problems arising in connection with the utilization of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries.

12.52 Research will also be carried out to determine the appropriate tax reforms that are needed to improve tax systems, to broaden the tax base and to improve the taxation of economic activities, including agriculture, manufacturing and services, to minimize tax compliance costs and to promote allocative efficiency and growth.

12.53 Policy-oriented research will also be undertaken to support the efforts of States in encouraging indigenous entrepreneurs. In this area, the research will address national policies in areas such as regulatory environment, tax policies and financial sector development to promote indigenous entrepreneurship. Consideration will also be given to support international technical co-operation in this field. Factors of the international environment that affect enterprises in developing countries will be investigated.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES AND EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGING ISSUES

(a) Objectives

12.54 The legislative authority for subprogramme 5 derives from General Assembly resolutions 40/207, 43/194 and 43/196; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1035 (XXXVII), 1079 (XXXIX), 1965 (LI), 1988/75, and 1989/85.

12.55 Authoritative and comprehensive monitoring of the progress of world development and analyses of both the medium- and long-term prospects for the world economy are required in order to assist intergovernmental bodies and Member States in their efforts to identify potential problem areas and emerging issues in the world economy. The organization of a large volume of information and of a continuously evolving and improving methodology for its analysis is therefore required, particularly since new issues are likely to emerge in a period of rapid political, institutional and social change in virtually all regions of the world. Long-term trends in economic and social development at the global, regional and national levels need to be studied in a systematic and quantitative manner by means of econometric, input-output modelling and other techniques in order to provide up-to-date analyses of emerging issues of concern to the international community, as one of means for assisting Governments in monitoring the implementation of the international development strategy for the 1990s. Policy modelling, projections and perspectives are also essential for studies undertaken under other subprogrammes, as well as for the overall planning of future activities both in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies.

12.56 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to strengthen the capabilities of intergovernmental bodies and Member States for the early identification of emerging problems in the world economy by improving existing mechanisms and means for providing socio-economic data and forecasts available in the United Nations in a comprehensive and readily accessible form; (b) to increase awareness at the national and international policy-making levels of major development issues and problems with up-to-date assessments of perspectives and alternative scenarios with a view to encouraging Member States to improve their own analytical work and forecasting activities; and (c) to further develop links and increase the flow of

socio-economic information between the United Nations and national research and information centres to the greatest extent possible.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.57 With regard to policy modelling of the global economy, the global econometric model of Project LINK will continue to provide quantitative analysis of the short- and medium-term outlook for external debt problems, commodity price shocks, the impact of closer integration of members of regional trading blocs etc. Research priorities will include the development of a framework for better analysis of world trade in services, capital goods, and commodities, the development of more and better models for African, western Asian and least developed economies, the development of satellite models for selected social indicators, and the expansion of the time horizon of the projections to the year 2000.

12.58 With regard to policy modelling of environmental and resource issues, the Global Input-Output Model (GIOM or "the Leontief model") of the world economy will be revised and updated to include better indicators of pollution and energy use, which will facilitate system-wide analyses of alternative growth paths under various pollution and energy-use constraints.

12.59 Analytical and comprehensive studies will be prepared of long-term socio-economic perspectives of the world economy, and several topic-oriented studies will be carried out on areas of common concern warranting the special attention of the international community. Those studies will be supplemented by drawing upon the existing new indicators being prepared by the Statistical Office and the Population Division, by the quantitative projection work undertaken in other parts of the United Nations system, and by wide consultations and exchanges with policy makers, professional and academic institutions in the context of international symposia, seminars, expert meetings and round-table discussions that will be organized by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

12.60 During the period of the plan, efforts will be made to improve access to data and modelling systems through local area networks for other parts of the United Nations system and to ensure ready access for researchers to other parts of the United Nations system.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(a) Objectives

12.61 The legislative authority for subprogramme 6 derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186, 42/187, 43/53, 43/182, 43/196 and 44/228.

12.62 Environmental problems cut across a range of policy issues, but are especially rooted in patterns of consumption, natural resource management and the choices among alternative technologies in the production and transportation of goods and services. Many instances of environmental degradation are clearly the consequences of poverty and the absence of economic growth. Such growth is required to facilitate structural adaptation in a manner that helps to protect and enhance the environment. Other instances of environmental damage are the unintended consequences of relentless economic expansion, particularly further industrialization, in many of the developed countries.

12.63 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to enable Member States to apply an economic perspective to issues arising from a consideration of the relationships among socio-economic development, resource use, technological change and the environment so as to promote sustained and ecologically sound development and (b) to foster awareness among Member States of current and emerging global issues, such as the impact on economic development of environmentally sound technologies, and to derive appropriate policy conclusions.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.64 The Secretariat will undertake two principal types of activities subject to modifications resulting from the outcome of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Studies will be prepared that will analyse the interaction and reconciliation between the need for rapid socio-economic development, on the one hand, and the avoidance of environmental degradation, on the other, in their global and regional contexts. The subprogramme will integrate in that analysis the environmental indicators being developed in the Statistical Office and other institutions in their monitoring of global socio-economic trends and will also take into consideration the periodic evaluation to be undertaken in the international development strategy. Particular attention will be paid to the relationships among patterns of consumption, resource use and choice of technologies for which the global input-output model of the world economy, being revised and expanded under subprogramme 5, will provide major inputs. The impact of less resource-intensive technologies on economic growth and its social implications will be highlighted.

12.65 The studies will include quantitative analyses of scenarios to the year 2000 and beyond under alternative assumptions regarding policies and technological choices and will explore the economic consequences of various strategies for preventing or mitigating environmental degradation. The interdisciplinary analyses required for the preparations of those studies will draw heavily on inputs to be provided by specialized organizations of the United Nations system, including not only the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), but others such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in respect of environmental aspects of agricultural development, forestry practices and watershed management. Inputs would also be provided by other subprogrammes for which the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) is responsible where environmental aspects are taken up in connection with other issues, e.g., poverty in subprogramme 2 above, energy in programme 20, water in subprogramme 1 of programme 19, population, resources, environment and development in programme 18, and environmental statistics and accounting in programme 24.

12.66 In the context of the international development strategy for the 1990s and follow-up to the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, the Secretariat will undertake analyses of alternative transportation technologies and transportation systems, including their environmental implications. It will also collect, analyse and disseminate information concerning policy issues, new transport technologies, infrastructure and institution building, environmental concerns, and transport legislation. The increasing systematization of this work is expected to result in a computerized transport data base during the latter part of the plan period. This work will continue to be undertaken in close collaboration with concerned international organizations such as the International Road Transport Union, the International Road Federation, the World Bank, UNDP, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Commission,

the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), etc., and biannual meetings will continue with regional commissions' chiefs of transport divisions to discuss and take appropriate steps on emerging or critical transport issues.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SYSTEM-WIDE ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC AREAS WITHIN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

12.67 The legislative authority for subprogramme 7 derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77, 1989/108 and 1989/114.

12.68 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to assist the Council in identifying major policy themes for in-depth consideration and to assist it in undertaking analyses of those themes selected for policy formulation in order to enhance programme effectiveness and reduce overlapping and duplication; (b) to co-ordinate in the United Nations system priority attention to areas of international concern with the aim of harmonizing system-wide policies and programmes to respond to those concerns; and (c) to develop co-operative and co-ordinative mechanisms for the formulation and development of system-wide medium-term plans.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.69 In order to make the United Nations system more responsive to economic and social development issues in the 1990s, the Council has called for the replacement of previous co-ordination instruments, such as cross-organizational reports, by thematic analyses on major policy themes selected from a multi-year work programme.

12.70 During the period of the medium-term plan, activities will be undertaken in relation to the preparation of thematic analyses on leading international economic and social issues; they will review relevant existing activities, identify policy options and make action-oriented proposals to the Council to assist it in establishing policies and priorities. Policy issues and relationships between fields, sectors and activities of relevant bodies of the United Nations system concerned will be reviewed. Relevant decisions and recommendations of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system will be analysed. Ongoing and planned programmatic activities relating to the theme and their system-wide implementation will be studied, highlighting obstacles and advantages. Emerging problems and the potential need for action by the United Nations system will also be identified. Appropriate attention will be drawn to the social and economic aspects of selected policy themes with recommendations made to promote complementarities, co-operation and, as appropriate, system-wide joint activities to enhance programme effectiveness and reduce overlapping and duplication in the United Nations system.

12.71 Under the overall co-ordination of the Office of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will allocate as necessary the appropriate capabilities, resources and relevant expertise to assist in undertaking analytical studies on specific economic and social issues of system-wide scope. Close attention will continue to be given to co-operating with relevant organizations and units of the United Nations system in the elaboration and development of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development to the year 2000 and of future system-wide medium-term plans decided at intergovernmental level.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. INTERORGANIZATIONAL CO-OPERATION

(a) Objectives

12.72 The legislative authority for subprogramme 8 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197 (annex), 37/137, 38/149, 39/229, 43/15, 44/170, 44/213, 44/226 and 44/231; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/72, 1296 (XLIV), 1988/59, 1988/61 and 1989/108 and Council decision 1989/110.

12.73 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to establish and develop procedures for achieving through inter-organizational co-operation concerted implementation by the United Nations of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and integrating into a coherent whole the relevant expertise and inputs of the organizations of the system; (b) to facilitate the functioning of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in respect of responsibilities for interorganizational co-operation; (c) to obtain and disseminate information on the programmes, activities and outputs of the programmes of the United Nations and the United Nations system in the area of consumer protection and to assist Member States in the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection; and (d) to assist non-governmental organizations in the economic and social sectors in implementing resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Council.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.74 Because of the decentralized nature of the United Nations system, broad policy goals are pursued under the aegis of a complex structure of mandates emanating from a variety of intergovernmental bodies. Clearly articulated goals and strategies for the system are required in many fields, and information on proposed plans and programmes needs to be exchanged in order to achieve a more harmonized approach in specific areas of work. The range and complexity of subjects considered by the Economic and Social Council, CPC and ACC demand substantive support both in terms of the information required and of the effective implementation of agreed lines of action. To this end, reports on the activities of the United Nations system on various issues will continue to be submitted to the Council and its subsidiary bodies as well as to CPC and CPC/ACC Joint Meetings. The process of prior consultation will continue to be reviewed through the machinery of ACC with a view to improving its effectiveness as an instrument for the harmonization of policies and to providing substantive servicing of and participation in the meetings of ACC and its subsidiary bodies on issues within the mandates of the programmes in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Interorganizational co-operation will also be provided for activities relating to the commemoration of international anniversaries, years and decades designated by the Assembly.

12.75 During the period of the plan, research work will be undertaken to update and maintain the Macrothesaurus for information processing in the field of economic and social development as a co-operative activity of international and regional organizations. A fourth edition of the Macrothesaurus is expected to be prepared and published during the period of the plan. Work will continue on co-ordination of collection, compilation and dissemination of consolidated information on harmful products. Work will proceed on the ongoing review of the Consolidated List of

Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale has been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not approved by Governments with a view to its improvement. This work will be carried out in close collaboration with UNEP, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and other concerned bodies of the system.

12.76 The activities related to the implementation of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection will be continued and expanded. In particular, assistance will be given to Governments, at their request, for the elaboration of national legislation and policies in this field. This will be carried out, inter alia, through regional seminars and thematic workshops. The need for consumer guidelines in specific sectors will be examined in this context. Activities will be further developed on the basis of recommendations of intergovernmental bodies.

12.77 Another area of activity is related to assisting non-governmental organizations. The General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies are continuously addressing to non-governmental organizations an increasing number of requests in a wide variety of fields. There is a need to assist those non-governmental organizations in responding to requests from intergovernmental bodies, co-ordinating their activities in order to avoid duplication and to ensuring complementarity. There is also an increased demand from Member States and the Secretariat for information and contacts regarding non-governmental organizations. To those ends, the subprogramme will increasingly serve as a focal point for the activities undertaken by the non-governmental organizations in consultative status, inter alia, by providing guidance to the various substantive non-governmental organization committees and co-ordinating the activities of these committees through appropriate mechanisms, continuing to act as the substantive secretariat of the Economic and Social Council Committee on non-governmental organizations and give increased attention to developing consultations and contacts through annual consultations and ad hoc meetings between Member States and non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Finally, the subprogramme will also continue to assist non-governmental organizations in developing collaborative relations with substantive and programme offices with the view to contributing to the implementation of the respective mandates of the programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

12.78 The legislative authority for subprogramme 9 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 43/199, 44/169, 44/211, 44/212, 44/220 and 44/227.

12.79 Widespread international economic instability and the foreign-debt and balance-of-payments problems of developing countries in recent years have increased the importance and urgency of strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of those developing countries for planning their economic and social development in order to gain the greatest benefits from the resources available to them for development. Through technical co-operation activities many developing countries have raised significantly their technical and institutional capacity for development planning, and many are now able to apply effectively more specialized and advanced planning techniques. However, the critical economic difficulties they still face, many of them caused or influenced by external factors to their economy, create a need for continued international support in this field, emphasizing immediately applicable and useful assistance.

12.80 The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of developing countries to prepare and implement integrated policies and plans aimed at accelerating and enhancing their economic and social development.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.81 Particular attention will be given to public-investment programming and monitoring, foreign-debt and balance-of-payments issues, short-term and operational planning, budget deficits, co-ordinating external assistance, mobilization of financial resources and activities related to structural adjustment and recovery programmes. Assistance will also be provided in medium-term national planning, sectoral planning, long-term perspective planning, forecasting techniques and multinational and subnational (regional) planning. Assistance will be provided, as appropriate and at the request of Governments, through expertise and training and through operation-oriented research aimed at developing innovative models and methodologies for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of development-planning activities in developing countries. Special support will be given to the least developed countries, island developing countries and the countries in other special categories where the needs are greatest. Consideration of TCDC modalities of co-operation will be made whenever appropriate. Assistance will be given to the World Food Programme in appraising government requests for food aid.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (INCLUDING COUNTRY PROGRAMMING)

(a) Objectives

12.82 The legislative authority for subprogramme 10 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 44/169, 44/211 and 44/220.

12.83 External technical and financial co-operation is an important means for the developing countries of overcoming constraints to development. The need for co-ordination by the Government of aid from many sources requires close harmonization and careful planning of international technical and financial assistance. Co-ordination needs to be an integral part of the overall economic and social development planning. This is particularly crucial in the case of the least developed countries and other developing countries facing special handicaps where external assistance constitutes a greater proportion of available resources.

12.84 The specific objective of the subprogramme is to support developing countries in planning and co-ordinating international technical and financial co-operation provided to them within their overall development priorities and the needs for external assistance stemming therefrom.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.85 Technical co-operation will be provided, at the request of Governments, in enhancing the developing countries' capacity to co-ordinate external technical and financial assistance within the framework of their overall economic and social development priorities, policies and plans. Assistance, including assistance in UNDP country programming, will be provided through expertise, training and operation-oriented research aimed at developing improved methodologies and

techniques for enhancing the developing countries' capacity for aid co-ordination. Special support will be given to the least developed countries and the other developing countries facing special handicaps where external assistance is particularly important.

SUBPROGRAMME 11. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGING CROSS-SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

12.86 The legislative authority for subprogramme 11 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 44/77, 44/78, 44/169, 44/171, 44/211, 44/212 and 44/227; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/41.

12.87 Intergovernmental bodies continually stress the need to establish effective linkages among major interdependent development issues. Among the development issues thus identified are the need for a unified approach to economic and social development at all levels, full and effective participation by the entire population at all stages of the development process, integrated rural development, environmental aspects of development, strengthening of scientific and technological capacity and natural disaster protection.

12.88 The objective of the subprogramme is to facilitate cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary approaches in the provision of technical co-operation on major development issues and policies.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.89 Technical co-operation will be provided, at the request of Governments and in response to the guidance of intergovernmental bodies, to promote a unified approach to economic and social development, integrated rural development, popular participation, women's integration in development, alleviation of sectors of critical poverty, environmental aspects of development, science and technology for development, natural disaster protection and other emerging areas. To ensure an integrated and effective approach, technical co-operation will be provided within the framework of the developing countries' overall economic and social development priorities policies and plans. The technical co-operation will be provided, as appropriate and at the request of Governments, through expertise, training and the development of action-oriented research materials.